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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Aug

LD1308064593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0512 GMT 13 Aug 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 13 ITAR-TASS—Central newspapers comment today on the speech made by President Yeltsin at the conference of heads of russian tv companies on in the House of the Russian Press on Thursday. The conference will last for two days.

In the opinion of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, "the main purpose of President Yeltsin's appearance in public and the speech he made was to show both his friends and foes that his time-out is over, that he is active again and ready for most serious actions."

"Yeltsin repeated once again the statements he made over the past several days. The current heightening of political tension is the result of the policy pursued by the parliament, whose resolutions on privatization are nothing but a challenge to the will of the people," writes KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

Journalists, who spoke at the conference, demanded resolute actions from the president, and "sometimes they did it in such an aggressive form, that it produced a bad impression in general. On some occasions the impression was that the president was being pushed towards taking hasty, ill-considered steps," TRUD writes.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an article under the "Opinion" heading, which deals with the assassination of Viktor Polyanichko, head of the provisional administration in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, who had the rank of Russian deputy prime minister.

The newspaper writes that "with more and more days passing since the death of Polyanichko, statements of those whose professional duty is to find the assassins become less and less optimistic ... According to Aleksandr Khodov, secretary of the North Ossetian Security Council, at present one thing is clear: First, the murder was a carefully planned action, and, second, Polyanichko's car which was fire at was thoroughly examined by experts only on the third day... Colonel Pavel Russkikh, a lawyer from the provisional administration, said that the provisional administration had several versions of what had happened. However, the experience of work shows that it will be very difficult, if possible at all, for the investigating group to find the assassins."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes an article entitled "Who Will Replace Barannikov?" The newspaper writes: "According to the information from sources close to President Yeltsin's staff, there are five candidates to the post of security minister: Chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security Sergey Stepashin, head of the Moscow City and Regional Department of the Security Ministry Yevgeniy Sevostianov, head of the State-Legal Department at the President's Office Aleksander Kotenkov, head of the main Defence Department of the Russian Federation Mikhail Barsukov and First Deputy Minister of Security Nikolay Golushko."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries a report of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Defence Ministry, which stresses that "the Russian Armed Forces, including the Air Force, are not taking part in combat operations in Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan. Russian troops, deployed in Tajikistan, are not interfering in the internal affairs of the republic. Strictly in conformity with interstate agreements, they are defending vitally important facilities, taking measures to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border and ensuring the safety of the Russian-speaking population of that region."

PRAVDA publishes remarks by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, head of the Russian Liberal-Democratic Party, and Nikolay Travkin, head of the Democratic Party of Russia, who set forth their ideas about the economic situation in the country.

Viktor Kharchenko, who has just been released from custody on condition that he will not leave St. Petersburg, has been removed from the post of head of the Baltic shipping line joint-stock company.

According to SMENA, this was sanctioned by the city assistant public prosecutor. He is sure Kharchenko, when released, will try to influence investigation. According to a senior official from the public prosecutor's office, there are no guarantees that Kharchenko will not go on with his criminal activities, if he is not removed from office.

A shop of the German company Adidas has been opened in St. Petersburg, which is expected to become one of the largest trade centres in Europe. According to NEVSKOE VREMYA, some 200 types of goods are being sold there for roubles. The equipment of the shop cost the firm 220,000 mark. In the opinion of Adidas specialists, Russia is a promising market for the firm. Adidas has started creating a network of its shops all over Russia. It has its shops already in Moscow and St. Petersburg, and similar ones will soon be created in Kemerovo, Vladivostok and other cities.

NEVSKOE VREMYA carries an interview with Marina Salie, co- chairperson of the Free Democratic Party and people's deputy, in which she supported the adoption of the draft constitution as soon as possible. She stressed that the draft constitution was "doing away with Soviet power and setting up a new political system." Salie believes that it is intended for a short transitional period. This is why she objects to its adoption by the constituent assembly. Responding to the question about a possibility of a new putsch attempt, she said: "I do not think those on the top will stage anything of the sort. After all, everybody is tired of it. They will reach agreement."

Press Review for 14 Aug

LD1408054993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0513 GMT 14 Aug 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 14 ITAR-TASS—The session of the Council of Heads of the Republics of the Russian Federation, held in Petrozavodsk, capital of the Republic of Karelia, is in the focus of attention of today's newspapers.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA believes that "the results of the session of the Council of Heads of the Republics may be regarded as President Yeltsin's victory." The president suggested at the session the creation of the federation council, which will include two representatives from each of the 88 members of the Federation. The newspaper points out that the federation council is intended to become the authority, parallel to the parliament and the council of people's deputies.

The session lasted for three hours instead of a planned hour and a half. "Yeltsin demonstrated in this way his good health," the newspaper points out.

Commenting on the activities of the Russian parliament, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out that its latest legislative initiatives, which formally are in line with the Constitution, "are actually nothing but an outright coup d'etat." Substantiating this statement, the newspaper writes: "Take, for instance, the draft law, drawn up by the Committee for the Constitutional Legislation headed by V. Isakov, under which both the government in general and individual ministers may be removed from their posts simply by the majority of votes in parliament. If such amendments are recorded in the Constitution (a whole package of them has been prepared), Russia will cease to be a presidential republic and will become a Soviet republic once again."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports with reference to reliable sources that President Yeltsin has not yet taken a final decision concerning the resignation of Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov from the post of secretary of the Security Council.

The press continues to give wide coverage to the situation in the hotbeds of tension of the former USSR. Today it is a year since the beginning of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA describes it as a "catastrophe". In its opinion, "the restoration of the Abkhazian gene pool and the city of Sukhumi will take many decades."

PRAVDA carries an interview with Dr. Yu.Voronov (history), chairman of the Commission for Human Rights and Inter-Ethnic Relations of the Abkhazian parliament. He stressed that the first thing needed today is to withdraw Georgian troops from the territory of Abkhazia and restore lawful power. Then it is necessary to sit down at a negotiating table and work out a decision on the type of relationship between Georgia and Abkhazia. According to Voronov, several ways of Abkhazia's future are being discussed now, including the establishment of confederacy-type relations with Georgia.

Talks with the armed group of Abdul Kadyr on the return home of four Russian frontier guards and a Kazakh officer have been going on for more than three days in the village of Moimai in Afghanistan. They were taken hostage on August 10. According to Aleksandr Pelts, observer of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, politicians will have a final say on that matter. He writes that five Afghan citizens, who were arrested when crossing illegally the Afghan-Tajik border, are expected to be turned over to representatives of the Afghan consulate in Dushanbe. "it is logical to believe that the Tajik authorities decided to take that step in the hope that it would be reciprocated by the Kabul government," the observer writes.

SANKT-PETERBURGSKIE VEDOMOSTI cites the statistics of the mayor's office, under which 35,000 unemployed have been registered in the city. The growth of unemployment has been curbed. At the same time, there are some 27,000 vacancies at local enterprises.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Planned U.S. Mediatory Role

LD1408113493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Washington will be prepared to contribute to the settlement of conflicts in the former USSR only if it is asked to do so. [passage omitted]

This statement was a response to a number of publications appearing in the Russian press that refer to a proposal allegedly prepared by the U.S. State Department. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said that these articles seriously misrepresent the actual state of affairs. He pointed out the following:

[Begin Demurin recording] Taking into consideration its long-term state interests and the nature of its relations with its partners within the CIS, as well as with other states formed within the territory of the former USSR, Russia is, and will comtinue to be, involved in active mediatory, peacemaking work. In pursuing its peacemaking activities, Russia is interested in gaining understanding from the international community. It goes without saying that we hope our position will be supported by the UN Security Council, where there is scope for cooperation with the United States and other countries in the sense of their contributing to our efforts.

According to official explanations we have received from the American side on this matter, the United States has no intention of undertaking the role of mediator in settling conflicts on the territory of the former USSR. At the same time, the United States is ready to contribute to multilateral efforts provided all interested sides agree. This includes measures already being taken by the United Nations and regional organizations, and presumably close cooperation with Russia. Moreover, we have been told that there is no connection between the size of economic aid to Russia and its policy in regard to new independent states, formerly the USSR republics. [end recording]

In other words, some people's fears about U.S. interference in Russian affairs have turned out to be somewhat exaggerated, as the saying goes.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also touched upon the appointment of Collins, an adviser to the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, to the post of coordinator for regional issues on the staff of the special aide to the U.S. secretary of state. This appointment has aroused numerous discussions in the press. In this connection, the Foreign Ministry spokesman called on the press to try and avoid developing complexes. In his words, the episode in question reflects normal diplomatic practice. Russia is also involved in contributing to the settlement of conflicts throughout the world, and it also appoints its representatives to do the job. There is nothing unusual about this.

Views Ukrainian Statements on SS-24's

LD1308145693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—Recent statements of official representatives of Ukrainian departments insistently note the SS-24 missiles are not covered by the START-1 Treaty, deputy head of the current information division of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Mikhail Demurin told a briefing here today.

"This is not true. The treaty declares no exception to this type of missile," said the diplomat. In his opinion, such statements are "deliberate falsification of facts and international agreements".

Asked about the time of Boris Yeltsin's visits to Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Demurin said "as soon as the dates of the official visits become known, we will immediately inform correspondents of it."

The U.S. initiative of air raid on Bosnian Serbs' positions can "hardly be called diplomatic". The Russian diplomacy "continues efforts to overcome the situation with political means, which have nothing to do with threats," said Demurin.

Foreign Minister Kozyrev on Official Visit to Sweden

To Meet With Bildt, Af Ugglas

LD1408094493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0855 GMT 14 Aug 93

[ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Aug (TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left by air on a working visit to Sweden today.

Prior to departure, replying to journalists' questions, Andrey Kozyrev said that during the forthcoming talks with Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt and Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas he will discuss topical international problems, the situation in Russia and the CIS, the situation in the Baltics, and Russia's relations with the countries in the region. The CSCE problems will also be touched upon, in particular, the participation of this organization in the settlement of military conflicts, inter alia on CIS territory. According to Andrey Kozyrev, during the visit to Sweden considerable attention will be given to discussing human rights problems in the Baltic states. The Russian minister is taking a memorandum to Stockholm in which lawyers are investigating legislative acts adopted in regional countries that are quite obviously aimed at discriminating against Russian-speaking populations. Andrey Kozyrev said this

is causing concern in Russia. We are doing this, together with other countries in the Baltic region, to help overcome the syndrome of "aggressive intolerant nationalism," he said. We need good neighbors, the Russian foreign minister said.

Discusses Ukraine Nuclear Issue

LD1508181693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Russian and Ukraine intend to sign in the next few days an agreement on dismantling nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told correspondents at a news conference in Sweden. [passage omitted]

Concludes Two-Day Visit

LD1508182493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 15 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Vukolov]

[Text] Stockholm, 15 Aug—The talks that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held here with Sweden's Prime Minister Carl Bildt and Foreign Affairs Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas focused on the domestic political situation in Russia, and assistance for the Russian reform process, matters of bilateral Russian-Swedish relations, regional cooperation, the situation in the Baltic states, the place and role of the CSCE process in the present political situation, and other problems of an international nature.

The head of the Russian foreign policy department was in Sweden on a two-day working visit. A. Kozyrev departed for home today.

Kozyrev Holds Phone Conversation With Stoltenberg

LD1308172593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1645 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 13 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a telephone conversation today with Thorvald Stoltenberg, cochairman of the coordinating committee of the international conference on former Yugoslavia, who briefed Kozyrev on the latest moves at the Geneva negotiations to settle the Yugoslav crisis.

Andrey Kozyrev informed Stoltenberg about the efforts the Russian side is undertaking to find mutually acceptable solutions.

The Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department reported the content of the telephone conversation.

Macedonia's Gligorov on Future Hopes, Russia

LD1508171493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1345 GMT 15 Aug 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Much less is known about the other republics of the former Yugoslavia, in particular, the smallest of them, Macedonia. That is quite a rare location for a report and that is why we have included it in the program. A group of Russian journalists recently visited Macedonia. They made this report with a Macedonian TV operator. Macedonia declared its independence in September 1991. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [Video shows reporter interviewing Kiro Gligorov, president of Macedonia] The Macedonian people do not want war and the conflict in former Yugoslavia has convinced us of that. The people of Macedonia do not want to see their cities destroyed. We have set a course for internal stability and relations of partnership both with our neighbors and with friendly states. Russia occupies one of the most important places in this regard. The people of Macedonia will never forget that it was namely Russia that recognized them at a most tense time. They also hope to expand cooperation, and one instance of this is the huge oil processing plant near the capital. [Passage omitted: reporter says that Macedonians are also awaiting tourists from Russia; Russia and Macedonia do not yet have reciprocal diplomatic missions but Macedonians hope that diplomatic relations will be established soon]

Far Eastern Troops To Guard Tajik Border

LD1508161493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Tomorrow 140 officers from Far Eastern military formations will be sent to guard the Afghan-Tajik border. The POSTFACTUM agency recalls that about 200 noncommissioned officers and soldiers from Khabarovsk were sent to Dushanbe between 3-6 August.

Events Surrounding Hostages in Afghanistan Viewed

PM1308190393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Afghan Minister Regrets That He Broke His Word But Promises That Hostages Will Soon Be Released"]

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister Amin Arsala "assured the Russian leadership" Friday that on returning to Kabul he "will personally see to the fate" of the Russian border guards and the Kazakh border guard captured on the Tajik-Afghan border last Tuesday.

The minister conveyed his assurances through M. Senkevich, Russia's ambassador in Dushanbe, to whom he expressed "regret that he had been forced to go back on

his word and leave Dushanbe" without waiting for the border guards to be released. Arsala, who had spent the past few days holding talks with the Tajik foreign minister on problems of settling the situation on the border, reported that all five servicemen were being held in the city of Taloqan, 120 km from the border, and that they were all alive and well. Sources at the Russian Foreign Ministry, who gave me information on our ambassador's meeting with the Afghan minister, pointed out that, according to Arsala's assurances, the border guards will soon be handed over to one of Russia's general consulates.

As regards Arsala's talks with his Tajik colleague, according to the available information they can hardly be called particularly successful: All that was achieved was an accord that a summit meeting is now to be held between the leaders of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. But neither the time nor the place of the meeting was decided.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan have requested the urgent convening of the UN Security Council to examine there the question of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

The most obvious and simplest result would be a statement by the chairman of the Security Council expressing concern, as can already be assumed, at the situation on the border and emphasizing the pressing need for the crisis to be surmounted as soon as possible by political and diplomatic means.

You would probably find in the history of the United Nations no more than half a dozen examples where statements of this kind have produced any practical effect. It would, of course, be a more concrete contribution by the community of nations to a settlement of the conflict to adopt a resolution on sending UN observers or even a peacekeeping force to the border region.

I was told at the Russian Foreign Ministry that Moscow and, presumably, the capitals of the other countries which have asked for the Security Council to be convened are prepared for the stationing of international observers at each border post. But does the question of effectiveness arise once again? UN observers are now scattered all over the world, but their presence—in the former Yugoslavia, for example—certainly does not necessarily mean the settling or even just the alleviation of a conflict.

The five countries' appeal to the Security Council will most likely have chiefly symbolic significance: The question of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border is being actively placed on the agenda of the highest forum in world diplomacy, and this guarantees to some extent the world community's constant and heightened attention to the events and trends in that region.

It seems to me that the steps and measures that are being taken on a, so to speak, internal, former Union basis could prove more effective. According to the data of informed observers, the creation of a special interdepartmental group on Tajikistan seems very promising. The group which, so I have learned, was formed 5 August includes the first deputy leaders of all the power ministries and departments, including the Foreign Intelligence Service, as well as the State Committee for Emergency Situations and the Ministries of Finance and Health.

It has been learned, in addition, that a memorandum sent recently to President Boris Yeltsin by the Foreign Ministry defines the giving of massive humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan by the CIS countries as one of the cardinal areas of activity with regard to settling the conflict on the border. Sources have reported that the memorandum proposes raising the question of setting up an aid fund for Tajikistan and the question of the specific volumes of aid at the meeting of the heads of the states of the former Union scheduled for 7 September.

Georgian Ambassador in Moscow on Abkhaz Situation

LD1308190993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—Over 1500 killed, more than 8,000 wounded, and the unestablished number of those reported missing only on the Georgian side—these are the preliminary results of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict which began a year ago.

This information was cited today by ambassador of the Republic of Georgia to Russia, Valerian Advadze, at a news conference devoted to the first anniversary of the beginning of the war in Abkhazia. According to the ambassador, a fragile truce established in the zone of the conflict thanks to the recently signed Russian-Georgian-Abkhazian agreement on a cease-fire, must develop into durable peace.

At the first stage, Valerian Advadze sees the main guarantor of peace in the Russian peacekeeping forces and representatives of international organizations which should strictly control the observation of cease-fire agreements and the disengagement of armed troops on both sides.

According to the information of the Georgian side reported by the ambassador, since the date of the signing of the agreement Abkhazian troops have violated the cease-fire agreement 64 times whereas the Georgian troops—only five times. The ambassador informed that on August 14 over 150 international military and civil observers will arrive to Sukhumi and join the already available control groups.

"The political settlement of the conflict must become the second stage of establishing peace in this region," Valerian Advadze pointed out. The ambassador asserted that

the "Georgian leadership is prepared to guarantee the autonomous status of Abkhazia and even considerably broaden it."

The normalisation of Georgian-Russian relations must be a reliable guarantor of peace in Abkhazia, the ambassador told a news conference. "According to preliminary data, on August 19 the talks between Russia and Georgia are due to be resumed in Moscow at the level of state delegations which are commissioned to work out a final draft of an inter-state treaty on friendship and cooperation", the Georgian ambassador informed. Drafts of the appropriate documents are practically ready and agreed with the Georgian parliament, Valerian Advadze said.

Russian Fuel Company Halts Supplies to Belarus

LD1508180793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Russian export joint-stock company Gazprom [Gas Industry] has stopped pumping gas to Belarus. A RIA correspondent has learned from the duty office of Beltopgaz [Belarus fuel and gas company] that the gas that has been supplied is being pumped just to flats, bakeries, dairies, and to some other important facilities today. The gas supply has been stopped due to the Belarusian consumers failure to repay the debt of 100 billion rubles.

Talks Planned for Resumption

LD1608100993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0838 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Gordeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Aug—A Russian-Belarusian bilateral arbitration commission whose task is to settle the question of resuming supplies of Russian natural gas to Belarus will begin work in Moscow today. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this by Vyacheslav Sheremet, first deputy chairman of the Russian joint-stock company Gazprom.

Sheremet said that supplies of gas to Belarus have now been reduced from 33 to 12 million cubic meters per day. This is enough to supply the needs of municipal services in the republic, but not enough to keep industrial enterprises operating normally.

Vyacheslav Sheremet noted that the reduction in gas supplies to Belarus was not a surprise for the leadership of that republic. A month ago, he claimed, Gazprom warned Belarusian consumers that unless they settled their debts, which totalled 92 billion rubles at that time, the pipelines would be shut off.

Talks Held With Belarus Officials on Monetary Issues

LD1508150093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Another round of negotiations and consultations between the governments of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation has been held in Moscow. The Belarussian side was headed by Mikhail Myasnikovich, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the negotiations, the sides reached mutual understanding on key issues, in particular, a certain amount of Russian money from 1993 was allocated in cash for Belarus, which refutes numerous rumors of taking those payment means out of circulation.

Issues of price creation, the process of economic reforms, credit and budget policy, and interstate financial settlements were also discussed at the negotiations.

Defense Ministry Signs Agreements With Turkmenistan

LD1308191493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—Another round of negotiations between the Russian and Turkmen Defence Ministries has ended here today, the Russian Defence Ministry's press service reports.

The negotiations initialed a number of Russian-Turkmen agreements on military cooperation, including the agreement on active military service of Russian citizens in the Turkmen Armed Forces and their status, training of military personnel in Russian military schools, training of sergeants and soldier specialists from amongst recruits for the Turkmen Armed Forces and others. The Russian and Turkmen defence ministers are expected to sign the initialed documents in the near future.

The negotiations also discussed agreements on Russian-Turkmen military and technical cooperation, material-technical provision of the two countries' armed forces and the stay of ships and cutters of the Caspian Sea Fleet.

Moscow Mayor Signs Cooperation Agreement With Azerbaijan

LD1408151993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and Azerbaijan Prime Minister Surat Guseynov have signed an agreement on trade, economic, cultural, and legal cooperation between Azerbaijan and Moscow. Luzhkov said that the document provides for mutual assistance and mutual deliveries of goods worth more than 100 million rubles.

Official Views Growing Integration Between Republics

LD1308123893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0939 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—"The trend for integration between the former Soviet republics is increasingly taking the upper hand," said Vladimir Mashits, chairman of the Russian state committee for economic cooperation between member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in an interview with the ROSSIYSKYE VESTI newspaper on Friday.

"Not a single president and not a single parliament can ignore these processes which meet the vital interests of their own peoples," he added. "Hopes that the West will help some republics, and the east or south will help others failed to materialise.

"Republics have developed understanding that the extent of mutual dependence between our regions is so great that its loss cannot be made good by any lump-sum hard currency injections."

Mashits stressed that Russian representatives at all the summits of the Commonwealth of Independent States "have always advocated integration processes".

In the opinion of Mashits, proposals of the Russian Federation on new forms of economic cooperation (establishment of transnational associations in various economic sectors, cooperation between related industrial enterprises, joint production and investment activities, creation of currency and customs unions and free trade zones) "can help stabilise the economic situation and form 'a common market' in future".

He noted that "it will take more than one or two years to establish a qualitatively new interstate organisation—an economic union". But the main thing is that integration has started, and nearly all the countries of the Commonwealth support it.

"I believe that this road will lead to a community of countries which will create qualitatively new conditions for the economic development of all member countries without destroying democratic ideals."

Ukraine Official's Comments on Nuclear Status Eyed

PM1608111993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 2

[Vyacheslav Yelagin report: "What Did Ukraine's Politician Tell the World?"]

[Text] The rigid and at times absurd stance on the nuclear dilemma taken up by D. Pavlychko, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's Standing Commission on Foreign Affairs, requires no comment. However, his revelations in an interview for the Austrian newspaper DIE PRESSE, bordering as they were on the cynical, surpassed all expectations. So what did the Ukrainian politician tell the world?

Pavlychko did not conceal the fact that Ukraine is, to all intents and purposes, a nuclear power. It is taking its "own route" to nuclear-free status, without yielding to the directives of other nuclear powers. But the further into the forest you go the thicker the trees. Ukraine, he exclaims pathetically, will sign the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons only once it receives "comprehensive guarantees of Ukraine's territorial integrity" from other nuclear powers. In its current form this treaty [faktor] allegedly discriminates against Ukraine, and as such it must be "revised" before 1995. And then comes the fatal conclusion: nuclear weapons cannot be transferred to Russia because these "deadly weapons" will help Ukraine defend its territorial integrity. The interview also spawned a blatant threat: Ukraine "itself" has produced nuclear weapons and is capable of continuing production of them.

I will not begin to pretend that such a viewpoint, which is immoral for politics at this level, does not leave a bitter aftertaste. Time and again alarming news has come out of Kiev. Clearly, they have decided to place nuclear arms under national physical control come what may. It defies common sense that Pavlychko himself, being a legislator, can so zealously advocate flouting international law and violating obligations undertaken by Ukraine regarding its nuclear-free status.

Let us remind the parliamentarian: Ukraine has recognized Russia's right to possession of the former USSR's nuclear weapons. The end of 1994 is marked as the deadline for their total destruction on Ukrainian territory. This fact is enshrined in well-known international agreements and documents. The Ukrainian president's signature stands at the bottom of some of them. But for Pavlychko, this signature, it seems, serves as a decoy. So after reading the interview it becomes clear precisely who acted as the real inspiration and initiator of the Urkainian Parliament's 2 July decision under which Ukraine declared itself the owner of the nuclear weapons.

Pavlychko's statement undermines in the most serious manner the existing nuclear weapons nonproliferation regime based on the 1968 treaty. Efforts to "revise" it before 1995 set a dangerous precedent which may be exploited by countries on the brink of creating nuclear weapons. Pavlychko, to all appearances, is not taking this into account, because nationalist ambitions are held in greater esteem than the many years of effort by the international community to achieve nuclear disarmament, above all within the framework of the START I and START II Treaties.

Pavlychko's statements confirm yet again that Kiev is using nuclear weapons which do not belong to Ukraine as an instrument of international blackmail. Its motives

are well known. But nuclear saber rattling in our unsettled times is not only amoral but inhuman. Does the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's Standing Commission on Foreign Affairs understand this? Because nobody is about to attack Ukraine. It has been given guarantees of such commitments on several occasions, including from Russia. Moreover, Russia intends to seek the UN Security Council's immediate action to assist Ukraine in the event of its becoming a victim of aggression or the threat of aggression with the use of nuclear weapons.

In this connection Pavlychko would do well to state honestly and directly against whom Ukraine intends to defend its territorial integrity with the help of this "deadly weapon" which has already exceeded all guarantee deadlines by a factor of 30 percent [na 30 protsentov vysluzhivsheye vse garantiynyye sroki]. Because further usage of such ammunition is simply dangerous. And this is what Pavlychko should have talked about in the interview with the Austrian newspaper DIE PRESSE.

Statement Circulated at UN on Ukraine's Nuclear Policy

LD1308202693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2021 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations August 14 TASS—A statement of the Russian Government on nuclear arms in Ukraine was circulated at the United Nations headquarters on Friday as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security council.

"Kiev has made a number of steps to gain control over nuclear arms stationed on Ukrainian territory. On July 2 the Ukrainian Parliament adopted a document 'Major areas of the Ukrainian foreign policy', in which Ukraine declares itself the owner of the arms," says the statement.

"The Parliament act was later supported by public pronouncements of Ukrainian leaders. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry has decided to include troops in charge of storage and operation of nuclear warheads in the 43rd Missile Army under Ukrainian command.

"Thus, Ukrainian direct control over the nuclear arms is established.

"The Kiev course, has which provoked concern of the international community, leads to grave consequences for the international stability and security, the whole system of international relations.

"Declaring itself the owner of the nuclear arms, Ukraine violates its international obligations on the non-nuclear status, challenges the international legal order and brings legal nihilism to international relations," says the document.

Envoy Speaks on Protection of Minorities at UN Session

LD1408015293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1235 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 13 Aug—Concern over the plight of ethnic Russians in the republics of the former USSR was voiced in the speech of the Russian delegation at the 45th session of the UN subcommission on prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities. "Russia does not question the sovereign right of any country to base its life on its own customs and national traditions", Sergey Bereznyy, leader of the delegation, said at Thursday's session. At the same time, he said, "it worries us when the existence of various complex problems is attributed exclusively to the presence of persons of other than the main nationality."

He noted in his speech that Estonia's law on foreigners of 21 June 1993 "grossly violates the legal, civil, property, social, and vital interests of the Russian-speaking population." The CSCE recommendation that Latvia should pass a citizenship law has still not been acted upon, and the lack of "legal clarity" is creating "conditions for arbitariness on the part of the executive power and for the realization of the concept of an 'ethnic state'." "We understand the problem of Estonia and Latvia establishing their own national identity," said Bereznyy, "but in the process, the rights of hundreds of thousands of real people living in those republics are being violated when they are arbitarily stripped of citizenship."

The Russian delegation spokesman described as "difficult" the situation of millions of Russians in the states of Central Asia, and drew attention to the exodus of the Russian-speaking population from the region to Russia. The greatest violations of human rights are occurring in the areas where there were armed conflicts.

The absence of any positive changes in the sphere of human rights in a number of the republics of the former USSR is due, not least, to the fact that many of them are in no hurry to sign international treaties on human rights of which the former Soviet Union had been a signatory. The UN Commission on Human Rights unambiguously called upon the new countries to become parties to these agreements by the method of succession to rights, among others. The Russian delegation considers that the subcommission on prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities could also take action along these lines.

EC Limitations on Aluminum Exports Viewed

LD1308213393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Commentary by correspondent Vladislav Kozyakov; read by announcer]

[Text] The other day, the minister for foreign economic relations of Russia, Sergey Glazyev, made a protest to the representative office of the Commission of European Community in Moscow in connection with the limitations for export of Russian aluminium to the EC countries. Here are the comments by our correspondent, Vladislav Kozyakov:

The EC has set up a quota for delivery of aluminium from Russia. Before November this year only 60,000 tons of this commodity is allowed to be sold to Western Europe. This is considerably less than the limit which had already been set up for selling this metal. The limit is allegedly introduced due to damping prices which are due to low cost of power and environment protection in Russia.

However, the decision taken in the EC raises many questions:

First, it has been made known quite recently. No consultations have been carried out as it's stipulated by the acting agreements. The quota introduced will cause damage to manufacturers of aluminium in Russia and other countries of the CIS. Nor is it profitable for West Europe. The point is that Russia spent about $300 billion gained from the sale of aluminium for purchasing raw materials, foodstuffs, and consumer goods from the EC countries. Besides, according to the Russian concern (?Aluminiy), the EC may lose about $1 billion as calculated per year due to higher prices and cessation of operations on the processing of raw materials in Russia at the joint ventures with foreign companies.

The decision taken by the Commission of European Community may also result in bringing disorder to the world market of aluminium. At any rate chairman of Aluminium Company of America, Paul O'Neill, said that other limitations in aluminium marketing may also follow and this in his opinion may bring grave consequences to the aluminium industry all over the world.

However, the EC decisions seem to be especially contradictory if viewed upon from the standpoint of many statements made by the heads of Western countries about their strive [as heard] to support Russian reforms and include Russia into world economy. This is more so because that is not a single fact contradicting such statements [as heard].

Let us recall the hindrances put by the USA on the sale of Russian uranium, which was also done under the pretext of damping prices.

Then again let us recall that up till now there persist numerous limitations for trade with Russia introduced in the USA and other Western countries on the COCOM line as early as the cold war years.

According to experts these barriers block the delivery of Russian goods worth $2 billion every year. Dealing with this practice pursued in the American trade, the newspaper JOURNAL OF COMMERCE AND COMMERCIAL pointed some time ago that ousting Russian exports deprives Moscow of hard currency which it needs badly and prevents it from operating at the American market. The (BUSINESS CIRCLES) newspaper emphasized that Clinton's adminstration should find a solution to this problem if it really wishes success for Russia.

It seems that it is high time for both the USA and the EC to look at Russia in a new way, to remove the blinders of the military confrontation, especially in trade. These days the out-of-date yardsticks are by no means suitable to international economic ties.

Chinese Military Delegation Ends Visit to St. Petersburg

LD1508143893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] An official visit by a Chinese military delegation headed by Colonel General Zhang Wannian, chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, to St. Petersburg has ended. During their visit to St. Petersburg, Chinese representatives held business meetings with Colonel General Sergey Seleznev, troop commander of the Leningrad Military District, and Rear Admiral Vladimir Grishanov, commander of the Leningrad Naval Base, ITAR-TASS reports. The guests laid wreaths at the monument in Piskarevskoye memorial cemetery, visited Admiral Kuznetsov Naval Academy, and the Central Naval Museum. The Chinese delegation has left St. Petersburg for Volgograd today.

Talks Held on PRC Border Rail Logjam

PM1308120993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Russian Cars on Chinese Rails"]

[Text] Beijing—Those who intend to travel by train to China should hurry: As of 1 September ticket prices will double.

This sad news was confirmed by Russian Federation Railways Minister G. Fadeyev, summing up the results of his visit to the PRC. The minister had little that was reassuring to report to those Russian firms which cannot dispatch their goods to China promptly. Today the following picture is taking shape at the border transfer points linking the two giant powers. On the Russian side about 7,000 cars accumulate every day. As a result of this, at one transfer point alone—the Zabaykalsk point—losses are 1 million rubles a day.

Bottlenecks at the railroads have become one of the main obstacles to rapidly growing Russian-Chinese trade. According to the assessments of our experts in Beijing,

because of difficulties in transport up to 30 percent of contracts are being disrupted.

At a conference at the Russian Embassy the minister admitted that there are plenty of disturbances at the border transfer points. Many of our companies and many Chinese companies are pushing through their freight by well known methods. But the main reason for the congestion, he said, is the inadequate throughput capability of the Chinese railroads. After all the Chinese meet even their own requirements for internal shipments by no more than 70 percent.

To rectify the situation it is necessary to send daily from Russia to China not three trains, as is the case now, but rather five or six. During the talks between Fadeyev and his Chinese counterpart Han Zhubin the Chinese side "expressed the desire to work in this direction."

Moscow suggested to its partner an unusual way out of the situation. In Russia, in connection with the production slump, there is a rolling stock surplus. The idea is to readjust the Russian freight cars for the narrow Chinese track and to ship on them freight to its destination in the PRC. Han Zhubin promised to study the proposal.

The meeting also discussed the problem of passenger transportation. It is known that it is a big headache for an ordinary passenger to get hold of a train ticket. Fadeyev reminded his counterpart of the agreement reached earlier to introduce additional weekly runs by Chinese trains from Beijing to Moscow and Harbin to Novosibirsk. Han Zhubin replied that the Chinese railroad men have completed all the necessary work. It is up to the customs service and security service which, given the present rampaging crime, will have additional worries with the increase in the number of passengers.

Obstacles, Importance of Trade With PRC Examined

LD1608002293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Russia has been and remains China's principal trading partner among the countries of the former USSR. Last year Russia's share in exports and imports between the People's Republic of China and the CIS countries increased to reach 90 percent. In money terms, trade and economic ties between Russia and China last year amounted to 5.8 billion dollars. Can one expect a significant rise in trade between the two countries? Our Beijing correspondent Sergey Feoktistov reports.

[Feoktistov] This year the figure is scheduled to reach 7 billion dollars, so there will definitely be a rise. Russia is fifth, however, among China's trading partners and is far behind the top two, Japan and the United States. There is a firm conviction both in Russia and in China that so far the trade between the two great neighbors with the world's longest common border is nowhere close to its full potential. Nonetheless neither mutual interest in trade nor the disappearance of political obstacles give grounds for an unambiguously optimistic assessment of the prospects for Russian-Chinese cooperation. What causes concern, if not apprehension, is the fall in the share of centralized trade. At present, the so-called direct links and border trade accounts for up to 80 percent of the trade turnover. On the whole, nothing can be said against the enterprises' and companies' right to engage in foreign economic activities. But practice shows that unsupervised trade is where the new rich can get huge profits without caring one little bit about the interests of their country. There is no mechanism to make dishonest trade unprofitable. As for the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, not only has it ceased to have a monopoly on foreign economic ties, but it has also ceased to coordinate them. Partners in Russia and in China cannot find one another.

Another serious obstacle for the development of trade is the problem of transportation of consignments, especially by railway, where there are now numerous difficulties. One would like to believe that there will be some positive movement as a result of implementing a joint protocol signed a few days ago in Beijing by leaders of the two countries' railway departments.

One other thing that prevents trade from rising to a higher level is the thriving barter trade. What Russia gets from it is mostly low-quality Chinese consumer goods, which Chinese producers fail to sell not only in other foreign countries, but also on their own internal market.

As time goes by, Russia-Chinese trade and economic cooperation will probably assume more civilized forms. For instance, the Chinese are prepared to buy, and are already actually buying from us equipment for works in China's northeast, built with the help of the USSR in the 1950s. Some long-term large-scale joint projects are emerging, such as the construction of a nuclear power station in China's northeastern province of Liaoning. But certainly—and the Chinese keep saying this—much will depend on how stable the political situation in Russia will be, and also on whether laws to provide guarantees for foreign investors are drawn up. In this aspect, the Chinese side has gone its part of the way.

Commentary Marks Anniversary of Korean Liberation

SK1508133693 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 14 Aug 93

[From the "Today's World" program]

[Text] The 15th of August is an important national holiday in, both, the DPRK and the ROK. On 15 August 48 years ago, U.S. and former Soviet soldiers met on the 38th parallel, and the meeting resulted in the liberation of Korea from being a Japanese colony. Station commentator (Valeriy Suyecov) writes on this day:

Koreans welcomed the liberation army with great expectations. They, who had been deprived of the right to use their own language and culture for more than 40 years

and who had suffered cruel exploitation, recognized that they finally achieved national independence and liberty.

However, all expectations were not met completely. History treated the Korean people's future in its own way. A new tragedy of national division followed the liberation. Thus, two countries that have totally different social and political systems appeared on the Korean peninsula.

It is regrettable that history in many cases brings happiness and disaster together. Confrontation between the two worlds became acute on the Korean peninsula. I do not want diminish the liberation war. However, history should be accepted as it is.

Thousands of Soviet people had to devote their lives to the Korean liberation war. Koreans remember their feats deep in their minds. When I visited the DPRK, I could feel such emotion in Koreans. I saw the Soviet soldiers cemetery very well arranged there. Various events were being held around the Tower of Liberation, which is located in the center of Pyongyang. However, it is very important to remember the other side of the war whenever we greet liberation day.

People often compare the division of Korea with that of Germany. However, the comparison is not proper. As a loser of the war, Germany was divided by winners of the war. The guiltless Korea, however, is experiencing the tragedy of national division in the flood of confrontation among powerful countries.

Today, when the world political situation has remarkably improved, when priority is given to cooperation instead of confrontation, and when Germany has been reunified, the Korean peninsula still remains divided. This is historically unfair.

They are marking the 48th anniversary of the liberation today. This is a very important event. However, I cannot help but note the double emotion of the liberated people. On the one hand, they are happy with the liberation itself, and on the other hand, they are mournful over the national division.

I regret that the Korean peninsula has not yet been directly involved in changes of the political situation of the world. Countries that are responsible for the division of Korea should prepare all external conditions for dialogue between South and North Korea. They should help South and North Korea achieve reunification in every way without intervening in the internal affairs of North-South relations and without infringing the sovereignty of the two countries.

Zaveryukha, Czech Republic's Lux Sign Agricultural Accord

LD1308125793 Prague CTK in English 1018 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, August 13 (CTK)—Czech Deputy Premier and Agriculture Minister Josef Lux, and Russian Deputy Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha signed here today an inter-governmental agreement on economic and scientific-technological cooperation concerning agro-industry.

Zaveryukha, as well as the Russian minister of agriculture, Viktor Khlystun, in their talks with Lux emphasized the Russian interest in obtaining processing, packaging and storage technologies. They also considered the creation of joint ventures as prospective.

Lux showed the need of exchange of information on agro-industrial laws in the two countries.

Lux, who arrived in Moscow for a two-day official visit yesterday, also met with the Russian minister for foreign economic relations, Sergey Glazyev.

Russia No Longer 'Bound' by Angolan Peace Accords

MK1308111693 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 42, 13 Aug 93 (signed to press 12 Aug) p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report: "Moscow Will Help Luanda, But Not Free of Charge"]

[Text] A high-ranking Russian diplomat stated that Russia no longer considers itself bound by the Bises [as transliterated] peace accords on Angola. This was in answer to a question on whether Russia, as a member of the Lisbon "troika," has the right to offer military aid to the Angolan Government, which Russia did as recently as Tuesday. UNITA, the diplomat went on to say, had violated the accords right from the outset and across the board, whereas we and the legitimate government of Angola had religiously observed them. We have to revise our position in the new situation that emerged after the general elections. The diplomat thinks that a certain measure of guilt for the present state of affairs lies on the world body that tied the Luanda government's hands.

The question of military aid is not on the agenda at the moment, the diplomat intimated. Considering the debt run up by Angola, as well as the state of the Russian economy, we cannot let Luanda have weapons for free. But we have no objections to commercial deliveries, the diplomat stated.

Iranian Navy To Receive Third Russian-Made Submarine

LD1508143293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Iranian Navy will receive a third submarine made in Russia in the very near future. This has been announced by Iranian Rear Admiral Shamkhani.

Political Issues

ITAR-TASS Views Yeltsin's Recent Speeches as New 'Offensive'

LD1408132393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1136 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS observer Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow August 14 ITAR-TASS—After a comparatively long period of silence, President Yeltsin seems to be launching an offensive. This follows from his speeches on August 12, at a conference of representatives of state TV companies in Moscow, and on August 13, at a session of the Council of Heads of the Republics in Petrozavodsk.

Both speeches show that the president and his team decided to stake on speeding up early parliamentary elections and on holding them next autumn. Yeltsin said at the conference in Moscow that he regarded parliamentary elections as the main way out of the existing situation of dual power. They "should be held in autumn, this year, without fail." "If the parliament does not take this decision on its own, the decision will be taken by the president," Yeltsin stressed.

There is nothing new in the fact that the president and his team want the elections to be held as soon as possible. The fact that the leadership of the Russian parliament does not want them to be held is also common knowledge. The problem is: How can the president implement his plan in a legitimate way? According to the Constitution now in effect, "the president of the Russian Federation does not have the right to dissolve or suspend the activities of the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation, or the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation." It goes without saying that a new parliament cannot be elected before the existing one has been dissolved.

It is noteworthy that Yeltsin evaded answering a question of journalists, soon after he arrived in Petrozavodsk, about a legal basis for the elections. Following Yeltsin, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray and the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov assumed the same stand.

Despite the fact that the president and his team are keeping their tactical plans secret, the Petrozavodsk session of the Council of Heads of the Republics gives some grounds for some forecasts.

Yeltsin proposal to revive the idea of the Federation Council, which was almost unanimously supported by the session, is one of its main results. The issue was raised by representatives of constituent republics of the Russian Federation as early as last December, at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. At that time the proposal was rejected: Legislators were afraid of creating an authorities, which would not be directly subordinated to them, and regarded it in advance as illegitimate and dangerous. This time Yeltsin again put forward the proposal on the creation of the Federation Council. Now it is expected to include representatives from all the 88 mebers of the federation—republics, territories and regions. Besides, it should rally both representatives of executive and legislative authorities, which should weaken the arguments of opponents of the Federation Council at the Russian parliament.

If the situation develops as planned by the president, the Federation Council will become not only an important body for settling relations between members of the federation and with federal authorities, but also a sort of a counterbalance to the legislative authorities—the parliament and the Congress of People's Deputies. The impression is that the president has made the right choice: He decided to enlist the support of the republics, territories and regions, without trying to set executive and legislative authorities against each other in provinces. If this idea works, it will be a major victory of the executive branch of authority.

The second important result of the Petrozavodsk session is the decision to hold on September 15 a joint session of the Constitutional Conference and the Constitutional Commission of the Russian parliament for discussing the new draft constitution. It took the president some time to make a decision on the participation of the Constitutional Commission. "It was difficult for me, but finally I agreed to it," the president told journalists after the end of the session.

If the draft constitution is approved by the joint session on September 15, the prospect of its adoption by the congress will probably become quite real. There is one more thing to be taken into account. Member of the presidential council Leonid Smirnyagin said after the end of the session that heads of constituent republics gave their word to the president: If their parliaments approve the draft constitution, deputies from those republics to the parliament and the Congress of People's Deputies will be obliged to support the stand assumed by their respective republics. They assured the president that if the draft constitution is approved by members of the federation, the congress will eventually adopt it.

According to Smirnyagin, Yeltsin stated point-blank: "If some republics fail to do it in time (i.e. before September 15), we shall believe that they have no objections and shall adopt the constitution without their participation."

The president seems to be assessing the situation quite realistically and is prepared for a possible failure to have the new constitution adopted in mid-September. "I do not rule out a possibility of the adoption of a constitutional law for the transitional period," he said in Petrozavodsk. "It could be instrumental for holding new elections and resolving the situation with dual power in this way."

Thus, there are two ways: Either the new constitution, followed at once by new elections, or the constitutional

law on federal authorities (which is worse, but quite acceptable), and again the elections.

The slogan of the day is "elections, whatever the situation." The president hopes in this way to resolve the problem of dual power. It is clear that the elections may remove from the political stage Ruslan Khasbulatov, one of the president's main opponents, but there is no guarantee that the new parliament will be easier to deal with, than the existing one. No one knows what its make-up will be.

Anyway, we are facing the pospect of an eventful autumn. The president expects a "decisive political struggle" in Russia, as he said at the conference in Moscow. Now he intends to use August for "preparation fire." Most probably, the opposition will take steps too. We can only hope that common sense will gain the upper hand.

Chernomyrdin Interviewed Before Far East Trip

LD1508173093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Aug 93

[By correspondent V. Martynov, including recorded interview with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by unidentified correspondent on 15 August at an unidentified airport; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Martynov] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin set off on a tour of the Russian Far East today. His itinerary includes Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Vladivostok, and Khabarovsk. Before flying out, Chernomyrdin had a brief meeting with journalists.

[Chernomyrdin] The purpose of the visit is, on the face of it, both simple and not so simple. Above all, it is a region requiring special attention, particularly now, at this time of tension, with navigation coming to a close. I believe there are things there for the government to tackle. There are difficulties, and wherever there are difficulties, it is the place for the government to attend.

[Correspondent] What is needed now for the situation in Russia to stabilize?

[Chernomyrdin] Well, I still believe that what we need most is accord in everything we are doing.

Favors Early Parliamentary Elections

LD1508220093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2011 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] [Announcer Mikhail Osokin] The head of the Russian Government, [Viktor] Chernomyrdin, has stated that it is necessary to look for ways out of the present confrontation between the powers. He described the situation regarding this confrontation as almost absurd. Chernomyrdin made this statement when setting off from Moscow on a tour of the Far East. He said that whatever decision is now taken by the executive bodies, it is 100 percent rejected. In this connection, the prime minister said he is not convinced that early parliamentary elections by themselves will stabilize the economy, but he believes them to be indispensable.

In connection with his Far Eastern tour, Chernomyrdin said that this region requires special attention at the present time. The prime minister's first stop is in Kamchatka where they are already waiting for him with a whole list of problems.

Government Dissolves Press Center, Press Service

LD1308192593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Council of Ministers today decided to dissolve the Government Press Center and its press service, and establish a Council of Ministers Press Service, which will function as a state institution under the Government.

Establishes New Press Service

LD1408165993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1033 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Aug—This week the Government Press Service was established by resolution of the Russian Council of Ministers as a state institution under the Council of Ministers. Valentin Sergeyev, who previously worked as an advisor in the presidential administration, and more recently in the Russian Government, was appointed its head.

"The lofty status of the press service, Valentin Sergeyev announced in an exclusive interview to ITAR-TASS today, makes it possible to pool the efforts and the possibilities of the previous government services, to coordinate them, and to draw up and implement a single information policy and practice. The citizens of Russia, he stressed, should know what the government is doing and what social and economic policies it is pursuing, while the government should have an objective picture of the situation in the regions and the problems worrying the population, and on the basis of objective information should make the appropriate decisions." Only in this way, according to the government press service head, can it make decisions "which would not only help stabilize the country's economy and remove tension in society, but which would also blaze the trail to the morrow."

Valentin Sergeyev described as the prime vital link between the government and the people, "the mass media, which today are themselves in need of detailed knowledge of the actions and plans of government bodies, and in many cases also in need of competent interpretations of the resolutions and decisions

adopted." It is the role of the government press service, he believes, to create this sort of precise and well-oiled information mechanism.

The government press service will focus its main efforts upon "establishing and maintaining constant ties with regional newspapers and television and radio companies, which, as was demonstrated by the recent conference in which the Russian president took part, are to a considerable degree cut off from the processes taking place in the higher echelons of power."

Given the low circulation of central publications and the fact that the relay stations of central television and radio broadcasting bodies cover far from all of the country's territory, local media not infrequently make use of the most absurd rumors and fabrications. This is precisely why, the head of the government press service stressed, they have a greater need than anyone else of up to date information and objective interpretations.

The activities of the press service, Valentin Sergeyev said, will encompass another important aspect, too: imparting objective information to the foreign public about the processes taking place in Russia. "It has been shown that today, the corps of foreign journalists has at its disposal neither objective information about the situation in Russia's regions, nor about the actions and plans of the executive power. Openness and close cooperation between the Russian Federation and the foreign mass media will be fundamental aspects of the press service's work, Valentin Sergeyev commented.

"If the present government is a government of popular confidence, then its press service should be doing everything possible to ensure that it remains such," the head of the government press service said in conclusion.

Central, Local Government Actions Reported

PM1608114393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Sittings, Trips**

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has chaired a Council of Ministers Presidium sitting.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko has participated in the conference of leaders of Russian state television and radio broadcasting companies and leaders of central and regional newspapers.

He then met with representatives of the Constitutional Conference working groups, and in the evening he held a special conference on the problems of the Russian State Library.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov answered questions put to him by Russian and foreign journalists gathered at a news conference devoted to the results of the Council of Ministers Presidium sitting.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha's official trip to Tver Oblast, where he familiarized himself in detail with the various problems of this oblast's agro-industrial complex, has ended.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray set off for Petrozavodsk for a conference of heads of republics within the Russian Federation and representatives of the eight Russian regional associations, in which President Boris Yeltsin will participate.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays received Kabardino-Balkaria representative V. Gustafov.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov, together with his colleagues, participated in the Council of Ministers Presidium sitting, and was then involved in current issues.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin is on vacation.

Remarks

Answering questions put to him by journalists who had gathered at his news conference, Vice Premier Boris Fedorov noted in particular that "he fully shared President Boris Yeltsin's opinion that September will be the decisive month in Russia's political struggle. If no progress is made in the constitutional process and the question of elections to the new parliament, it will be impossible to continue with the reforms." [passage omitted]

Cadre Rearrangements

The Russian Government has adopted a decision to carry out a "radical purge" among the leadership of state firms which export weapons, a high-ranking expert close to the Russian Federation Parliament told INTERFAX. Commenting on the dismissal of Sergey Karaoglanov, chief of "Oboroneksport," a major Russian air defense weapons export firm, parliamentary experts are noting that changes in leaders of export firms and associations should "lead to a growth in the aggressiveness of Russian weapons exporters" and "encourage them to seek new markets for selling output from Russia's defense plants more actively." Major General Karaoglanov, who previously occupied a responsible post in the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate, was removed from his post "for abusing his official position." Karaoglanov's colleague, Major General Valentin Trofimov, was appointed acting head of "Oboroneksport." According to sources in the Russian Government, Karaoglanov and leaders of certain other state associations and firms operating on the weapons market are being blamed for "weakening Russia's position" on traditional markets in Eastern Europe and lack of results from participating in international weapons fairs.

Regional

On Tuesday the leadership of Maritime Kray suspended the flotation of state enterprises and the holding of check auctions on the kray's territory.

According to a directive of the kray's administration (No. 523-r dated 3 August "On Measures To Prevent the Mass Bankruptcy of Privatized Enterprises and the Social Protection of the Kray's Population"), the flotation of 172 major industrial installations and the sale of shares in joint-stock companies at check auctions have been suspended until the reassessment of the capital assets of all regional enterprises is completed; it is to be conducted in September. The authorities were forced to resort to this measure in connection "with the extremely unfavorable financial position of the majority of enterprises which have been transformed into joint-stock companies in this region."

Protest

A. Surat, head of administration of Amur Oblast, unilaterally suspended the exchange of tourist groups between Blagoveshchensk and the adjacent Chinese city of Heihe. The reasons for this decision are set out in a letter from A. Surat to the governments of the province of Heilongjiang and the city of Heihe, as well as the Chinese General Consulate in Khabarovsk. It notes that with the opening of the summer sailing season in Amur, statements from Blagoveshchensk tourist firms, enterprises, and organizations, as well as private individuals, have started coming into the oblast administration citing cases of unlawful actions on the part of Chinese border service and police in respect of Russian citizens. The use of brute physical force and extortion of money from Russian tourists for allegedly committing violations of public order have become a regular occurrence on the border crossing to Heihe. Such cases, the administration head's letter stresses, "does not promote the strengthening of friendship and mutual understanding between our regions, peoples, and states."

Russian TV To Disobey Supreme Soviet Order on Program

LD1508131593 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The "Parliamentary Hour" television program will be appearing on the air at its customary time on Monday despite the Supreme Soviet's instructions to the management of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company to transfer the time of its broadcast to 2020 [1620 GMT]. Nor does Russian TV plan to broadcast "Parliamentary Hour" at the aforementioned time today, 15 August. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was given this information by telephone by the duty assistant to the chairman of the All-Russian Television and Radio Company.

Opposes 'Censorship' of State TV

LD1308115493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] It looks like we, television staff, will have to take measures in connection with the following fact. A decision by the Supreme Soviet committee for the media arrived at our television and radio company today, together with an accompanying letter signed by parliamentary speaker Khasbulatov. In accordance with this decision the leadership of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company has been instructed to change the time for broadcasting the "Parliamentary Hour" program—the Supreme Soviet's brain child—to 2020 [1620 GMT].

Until now, no one has dictated their sovereign will to television in such a way. Even the time for broadcasting the president's speeches has been determined independently by the company. Only the CPSU Politburo used to have the prerogative of upsetting broadcasting schedules in contempt of viewers' interests. These times seemed to be over, but now it seems they are not. Moreover, the Supreme Soviet committee for the media believes it expedient to set up an analytical center to analyze television and radio programs under the Supreme Soviet's press service and the operational management of the committee.

I am afraid that such analysis under operational management will be seen as nothing but common censorship.

Khasbulatov Request Called 'Meddling'

MK1408085593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Kornev report: "Khasbulatov's Letter to Russian Television—Speaker Corrects Airing Schedule"]

[Text] A letter sent yesterday from the office of Ruslan Khasbulatov, Supreme Soviet chairman, to Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Company [RTV], categorically requests compliance with a decision by the parliamentary committee for the mass media on altering the airing time for the "RTV-Parliament" television program. According to RTV Deputy General Director Sergey Skvortsov, RTV chiefs regard the letter as a direct meddling in the professional activities of the television and radio company.

According to the mass media parliamentary committee decision, "RTV-Parliament" is now supposed to go on the air at 2020, not 1845 as before, daily, including weekends. The committee's decision contains yet another interesting point instructing the chiefs of the Supreme Soviet press service to explore the possibility for weekly broadcasts of the "RTV-Parliament" program on the "Ostankino" first channel.

Commenting on the speaker's message, RTV Deputy General Director Sergey Skvortsov stated during a conference of Russian mass media chiefs that such actions are nothing but meddling in the professional activities of

television workers, and asked that this view be recorded as a separate item in the conference's final memorandum.

Mr. Skvortsov also observed that since parliament had funds to establish its own broadcasting organization, it would be quite reasonable to consider organizing its own broadcasting channel. Mr. Skvortsov also told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that according to information he had received, funds set aside for the creation of a parliamentary broadcasting organization top $3 million, which seem sufficient to form their own channel as well.

The television channel's ownership situation may soon change significantly in light of what Deputy Premier Shumeyko stated during the same conference. The deputy premier stated that the fourth VHF television channel would quite probably be sold soon to non-state structures.

Tolskiy Sums Up Moscow Media Conference

LD1308153893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1509 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—"We have managed to attract the state's attention to our problems," Chairman of the Council of Heads of Federal and Local TV and Radio Companies Valeriy Tolskiy said upon the completion of their conference.

He expressed the hope the president will soon sign a decree in support of local TV and radio companies.

The conference discussed financial problems, the development of broadcast, relations with communication services, forms and methods of corporatization and elaboration of a federal program of state broadcast development in Russia.

The debt of state TV and radio companies to communication services is nearing 40 billion roubles, reported Deputy Russian Communications Minister Mikhail Yelizarov. In their turn, communication services fail to pay their electricity bills. Yelizarov did not exclude a possibility of broadcast halts in September.

The deputy minister is rather skeptical about the introduction of TV subscriber payment. When a similar payment was introduced for the radio, over one million people refused from listening to the radio. This violates information space, said the official.

Poptsov Defends Law on Media

LD1308134793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1848 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Speech by O. Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian State TV and Radio Company, at the meeting of media representatives held in Moscow on 12 August; from the "TV Today and Tomorrow" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Poptsov] I would like today to say words which may seem hard but I cannot fail to say them. I must say that the president skillfully preempts initiative but the president's team loses it as skillfully, and we are worried by this. [applause] [passage omitted]

We support executive power as reformist power, and it should reciprocate this support. If it cannot do this, all the people present in this hall are facing the only solution of creating an all-Russian strike committee of the mass information media to defend the law on the media which, for the time being, is the only achievement of the period of perestroyka. We would like to say this aloud and, perhaps, we should take such steps. If we are saying today that every time a difficulty emerges we turn to the president for support we hide behind the president's tall and massive figure, I believe the president should say: do you think I can hold on my own? It is the president who should turn to us for support, and we should support the course of reforms. [applause]

PRAVDA Comments on Conference

PM1308125193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 1

[Vasiliy Fartyshev report: "One Step Separates Anarchy from Bread Shortage. Artillerymen, Yeltsin Has Given the Order!"]

[Text] It is certainly a long time since I have seen such a hullabaloo among my colleagues storming the doors of Press House. Were they really all so concerned by the television crisis? It turned out that something else was worrying them—the president's state of health. I was told by Yu.N. Shevchenko, a member of his immediate entourage, that the rumors of his illness are grossly exaggerated. "All our friends" were in the hall—G. Starovoytova, B. Kurkova, G. Yakunin, Yu. Chernichenko, K. Borovoy, V. Kostikov... The president's entire army seemed to have gathered together.

M. Poltoranin, head of the Federal Information Center, set the right tone in his opening address. It turned out that the reason for the assembly is not the creative or even the financial crisis within the system of television and radio broadcasting, but...the "Supreme Soviet's aggressive policy" and "the scorched earth tactics" that it is employing to establish "total control" over the mass media. The former press minister warned unequivocally that if parliament succeeds in taking control of television and radio, the same fate will befall newspapers and journals tomorrow and then it will be goodbye fourth estate.

V. Tolskiy, chairman of the Council of Leaders of Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Companies, took up the same political theme: Frightening the gathering and the president with the impending demise of television, he said that the Constitutional Conference

had not lived up to expectations, a new Constitution will not be adopted in the near future, and the opposition is taking advantage of the discontent to reinforce its ranks. The Supreme Soviet's decisions on the creation of oversight councils and on funding from local budgets destroy the single information space. He even hurled criticism at the Ministry of Press and Information. And the criticism was, so to speak, aimed to kill: Remove the minister and disband the ministry!

Plenty of criticism was heard altogether—both of the Ministry of Press and Information and of the president's apparatus, where most valuable documents and proposals mysteriously disappear, while the president himself was on the receiving end from his "loyal comrades-in-arms"...

V. Bragin, chairman of the "Ostankino" Television Company, developing the idea that the opposition is doing everything it can (I quote verbatim) "to hog the television screens," called for a "solid barbed-wire fence" to be erected against "reactionaries in the Supreme Soviet" and its "aggressive policy." And for the White House to be surrounded by barbed wire! And the "ideological reversal" [ideologicheskoye basurmanstvo] that will begin if the aggressor gains control of television will lead to no more and no less than the fall of the current regime!

For the sake of objectivity I must point out that it was not only political fears that inspired Bragin. He also spoke as a professional: Television equipment is worn out, with depreciation totaling between 50 and 80 percent, all control over the "pirates of television airtime" has been lost, "left-wing" publicity has hit our screens, and Western capitalist magnates are already making quiet moves toward Russian Television.

I must acknowledge that at this point I vividly recalled what the main "aggressor," R. Khasbulatov, said recently during a meeting with the creative and scientific intelligentsia (I quote from the record): "Is it really Bragin or Poptsov who direct television? They have lost all control, all levers of management. Television company personnel themselves are tied by thousands of threads to entrepreneurial structures and it is those structures that control them!"

Evidently, V. Bogdanov, chairman of Russia's Union of Journalists, did not hear the speaker, but he almost quoted him: The "Ostankino" First Channel programs are almost 80 percent commercial rather than state-minded in character and its personnel seem to have long since been receiving something else besides state wages.

There is a quite unusual means of declaring your love—by criticism. If I didn't love you, I would not talk of your shortcomings. Bella Kurkova ("Peterburg—Channel Five" Television) was a virtuoso in this. August does not dispose one to comment, she said addressing the president. And she described the last two years as a period of missed opportunities. She said that the party nomenklatura is taking its revenge, you, the president, have been evicted (?!) from the White House and you, Boris Nikolayevich, are to blame for all this! The person who controls information controls the world and, failing to recall in time [Gogol's] notorious sergeant's widow, B. Kurkova then made a rod not only for her own back but also for the entire democratic press by saying that the referendum had been won by...the mass media, "without which no one would have suspected what the democrats were doing."

So once again the president was told how to live and work.

Many ideas voiced by the president's supporters at the conference yesterday might have been thought to come from the opposition. Judge for yourselves, here are just a few quotations from the speech made by O. Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company: "The president signs decrees which the Supreme Soviet suspends, the Supreme Soviet adopts laws that the president suspends with his edicts. There is no system for implementing these edicts. People on the street and in government offices are asking: What is going on? If we lose, must we learn to self-critically acknowledge that?"

And he proposed an original way out of the crisis: Create an all-Russia mass media strike committee to defend the Law on the Press.

B. Yeltsin's speech was of course the highlight of the conference program.

His confederates gave his words a standing ovation. And what a pity that was. Because there was nothing constructive said on this occasion either.

Something else is also regrettable. Since the leaders of the television and radio broadcasting companies and the government acknowledged the state of the mass media, there was a good opportunity to discuss all aspects of the crisis, not only the political ones. But even what the president said about the mass media's being to blame for society failing to receive an adequate objective picture of what is going on, even the admissions that the airwaves are increasingly coming under the control of entrepreneurial and mafia structures, did not prompt the participants to take that course.

Disappointed journalists on their way out exchanged perplexed questions: What was this? A party assembly? Another public dressing down for the parliament, the government, and the president?

Luchinskiy on Federal Council for TV, Radio

LD1408193593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Interview with Yuriy Luchinskiy, head of the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Press and Media Freedom, by correspondent V. Budnikov; from the "Vesti" newscast—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Budnikov] The struggle between the parliament and the government for influence over state radio and TV broadcasting shows no signs of subsiding. As you know, the parliament's most recent move was to set up a Federal Council for TV and Radio Broadcasting. Its first session was held a few days ago. According to one of those present, Yuriy Luchinskiy, representing the Ministry of Press and Information, "here are too many National Salvation Front members in the council. It is likely that it is they who will determine the council's policy.

[Luchinskiy] Unfortunately, this is all links of one chain, it is designed to force all Russian citizens into hearing for as many hours as possible, how bad the Yeltsinites are and how good are our Russian deputies.

[Budnikov] Do you believe that the Federal Council will be able to exercise real influence in future on mass media?

[Luchinskiy] It is all up to correspondents themselves now, whether they will allow these new supervisory bodies to rein them in and tether them.

Yeltsin To Decide on Shaposhnikov's Resignation

MK1408064093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Power" rubric: "Security Council Continues Functioning—Marshal Shaposhnikov's Resignation Request May Not Be Satisfied"]

[Text] According to trusted sources, the question of Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov's resignation as Security Council secretary has not been decided upon by the president. Some high-ranking members of Russia's leadership are privately urging Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov to reverse his decision, while there are some who think that the marshal's move makes it impossible for him to remain in this post. Some Security Council staffers, who define this council as a coordination-information organ under the president rather than as a conceptual body, see a temporary way out of the situation in Ye. Shaposhnikov's idea of elevating the Security Council secretary's position to the rank of government deputy prime minister.

Be that as it may, the Security Council continues functioning. In particular, Vladimir Rubanov, who was appointed deputy Security Council secretary, has begun his duties.

Acting Tax Police Chief, Appointment Process Viewed

MK1408102093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 2

[Leonid Brodskiy report: "Tax Police Chief Appointed—Young General Becomes Tax Police Head"]

[Text] Following a long period of uncertainty as to who would direct the Russian Tax Police Department, it has been decided to appoint Sergey Almazov as its acting head. Today, KOMMERSANT-DAILY delivers on its promise to give more details on the circumstances of the emergence of the new figure in direct proximity to the Russian political Olympus—direct proximity because, unlike many executive branch structures, the tax police head is going to work not only in closest contact with the president and have direct access to him, but also to Supreme Soviet chiefs.

Sergey Almazov was born in Leningrad on 2 February 1944. He graduated from Gorkiy Polytechnical Institute as a mechanical engineer. In 1965, he worked in KGB organs. After a stint in Nizhniy Novgorod (formerly Gorkiy), he was sent to Moscow to take an executive position. He was in charge of the Directorate for Economic Crimes of the Security Ministry of Russia. In 1992, he was posted to the Main Directorate of Tax Investigations [MDTI] of the State Tax Service of Russia as MDTI deputy chief. He is a Security Ministry lieutenant general.

The special nature of the Tax Police Department head appointment procedure is indicative of the fact that the Russian leadership attaches not only purely functional, but also political importance to this position. The chair of the tax police head remained vacant for two months following the passing by parliament of a law on it. On the one hand, the struggle for the new agency's status, created on the basis of the Main Directorate of Tax Investigations of the State Tax Service, sparked sharper differences inside the State Tax Service itself which, parliamentary specialists think, led to the discharge from this structure of Valeriy Yampolskiy, who held the position of first deputy chief of the Tax Investigation Directorate. As one of the main developers of the tax police law who formalized this structure's independence from the State Tax Service and the Finance Ministry, Yampolskiy was viewed as the main contender for the office of chief of the new agency. His independent position (according to unofficial information, Yampolskiy's candidacy was backed by the then-Security Minister Viktor Barannikov) became one reason for the head of the State Tax Service, Vladimir Gusev, exerting efforts to get him back into the Security Ministry as soon as possible.

Until recently, the appointment as head of the Department of Yuriy Bachurin, who was shortly before that acting MDTI chief, backed by Gusev, was considered virtually sealed. The victory in this "vertical race" by Sergey Almazov—a mere deputy to Bachurin—can be viewed as a decision worthy of Solomon in line with the Russian political tradition: the seat of a chief goes to a neutral figure associated with none of the groupings who lay claim to it. Another reason was that the relatively young professional Almazov, who had a windfall in the shape of the post of chief of one of the most prestigious—from the point of view of an economic crimes expert—agencies, will now have to prove his loyalty to the

executive branch leadership, who fear that the post of director of tax police might go to a person capable of using the agency's wide- ranging powers in the struggle between the two branches of power. This is perhaps what accounts for his appointment, for the time being, as acting chief.

Commentary Views Yeltsin's 'Silence'

PM1608100593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Desk editor Viktor Petrovskiy commentary: "He Was Not Allowed To Stay Silent"]

[Text] Speech is silver, but silence is golden, so runs the folk saying. Golden because someone who is silent is thinking. Thinking of the words that need to be said, since words are always needed at the start of any undertaking.

It is important—very important—to keep silent at a decisive and perhaps fateful time, before facing your destiny. At such times Napoleon would take a short nap and wake up with the only correct decision. At such times those around him would be tactful enough not to interrupt the silence. Remember Furmanov's "Quiet! Chapay's thinking!"

Now our president is wrapped up in difficult thoughts about what to do. Reform has gotten out of hand—that's one thing. Why has it happened? Freedom was confused with anarchy. He himself said: "Take as much sovereignty as you can swallow!" The same thing happened to reform: "Do everything that is not prohibited." But what can be prohibited when prices are astronomical and officials are for sale because they want to live well? That was when the profiteering experts began the great robbery of the people's assets: "Take as much as you can get!" What kind of rule-of-law state is it that tolerates downright, unpunished larceny? Our own people seem to have been dragged down into the mire. Anyway, there is not even any question of a rule-of-law state. That's another thing.

Laws and morality have been discarded. Some are succeeding with bribes, some with guns, some through the abuse of power. Laws are not working, edicts are not being enacted, and the mafia is in charge of everything. We wanted democracy, we got plutocracy.

Furthermore, the economy is in tatters. Because an attitude of complete liberalization has been adopted toward industrial enterprises—let the strongest survive and the weak go to the wall. The method of recapitalization and improvement is almost a fascist policy. And industry is also being stifled by taxes. The trading sphere is already wholly in the hands of the mafia. It is useless trying to fight it; it has everyone in its pocket.

The people are being impoverished, the death rate is higher than the birth rate, and all around is downright drunkenness, dirt, and moral collapse. This is the concept of democracy which we have given the people. They will shun it like a plague for a long time to come. Not for nothing has it become a swear word.

What was our mistake? It is now clear: We tried to do something about which we had no more than the vaguest understanding. Indeed, how was I—a professional partocrat—to know what democracy was, what capitalism was? I relied on Gaydar and Burbulis—but they knew about capitalism from Soviet textbooks, which is the same as knowing nothing. They acted in the only way open to us—the Bolshevik way. Instead of across-the-board Bolshevik collectivization they introduced across-the-board privatization, which the people dubbed piratization. It served them right. They should have looked before they leapt.

Basically, they obtained quite different results from those they had expected. And that should not happen to professional politicians. They are politicians because they are able to predict the consequences of their actions. And this was my mistake too—the people appointed to key government posts were not politicians but clever office donkeys who proudly stated at every turn that they were not politicians but professional economists. That is why their policy did not smack of a real state policy that took account of numerous variables. And that has been the main cause of our collapse. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn hit the nail on the head when he said: "Reform has been carried out thoughtlessly."

And it is no secret—the parliamentary opposition has always said that. Both Khasbulatov and Rutskoy have said essentially the same thing from the very outset of reform. Our entire method of transformation was to let the jinni out of the bottle thinking that it would then do everything itself. We justified this by saying that a period of initial accumulation was inevitable. Yet the Chinese have not changed one word of their Constitution. And state ownership of everything—land and factories—has remained the case there. Just look at the results they have achieved! Simply because they acted with due consideration and without our Russian inanity and bungling.

In general, a lot needs to be abruptly changed. The people's patience is running out, the workers are starting to raise their heads everywhere, and the entire working class will soon take to the streets. This is just what the National Salvation Front is waiting for. If it wins popular support, a coup d'etat will be inevitable.

And there is probably only one way to avert this—to recognize the failure of our political policy, to dissolve the government, to reach out to parliament, and to form a new government on a centrist footing. If we are totally honest, people will accept their own responsibility for their policies and resign. This is now probably the only way to preserve legitimate power in the state and to prevent a violent coup.

This, I have no doubt, is what the president is thinking about and why his silence could be golden.

But the president is being prevented from keeping silent. He is being prevented from thinking through the conclusions—inevitable for an experienced politician in this situation—toward which he was perhaps inclining during his brief period of isolation. He has been castigated for faintheartedness and lack of resolve. People have been demanding that he sound the alarm. People have been playing on his weak spot—his bunker mentality. And the president has given in. He has sounded his battle cry, betraying all that is best in his exceptional nature.

'Deep Internal Crisis' in Political Opposition

MK1408074893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 1,2

[Indira Dunayeva, Yevgeniy Krasnikov report under the "Parties" rubric: "The Opposition Finds Itself In Crisis—Sobor Members Beaten and Cut Off From Communications"]

[Text] Despite a lot of cheerful pronouncements, the Russian political opposition is experiencing a deep internal crisis. Numerous opposition associations that were set up last year with much fanfare and high hopes are presently for the most part embroiled in internal splits and divisions instead of putting up resistance to the current authorities. The Russian People's Assembly has ceased its activity, the National Salvation Front [NSF] is being slowly but surely devoured in agony, and even the relatively well-off Communist movement is torn by fierce disputes between supporters of the revived CPSU and the leaders of the Russian Communist Party. An internal crisis also has befallen so famous a patriotic movement as the Russian National Assembly [RNA].

When the RNA was set up in February 1992, its organizers hoped that it would turn into a mass party that would be capable of leading the patriots' struggle against Boris Yeltsin's authority. Great hopes were pinned on the RNA's organizer and leader, General Aleksandr Sterligov, who became famous first as a defender of the White House and then as a fierce critic of the democratic regime. The new movement was set up with active support from the "Slavic Assembly" [Slavyanskiy Sobor] international public movement, using its social and financial base.

Soon many opposition activists could see, however, that the general was not intent on building up the RNA as an association of the entire opposition, but was gradually turning it into his own party. Stanislav Karpov, co-chairman of the "Slavic Assembly's" Duma, assured your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that the RNA was not dealing with organizational work, but was advertising personally General Sterligov, who ousted his fellow co-chairmen, including Valentin Rasputin, Gennadiy Zyuganov, and Petr Romanov.

Therefore the "Slavic Assembly's" Duma decided to expel Aleksandr Sterligov "for violations of the principles of assemblage" and suggested that the RNA's Duma consider dismissing him from the post of Duma co-chairman and as RNA's executive committee chairman. Afterwards, events unfolded as in a detective story: the very next day, telephones were cut off at the central mission of the "Slavic Assembly" and its lease was canceled. Stanislav Karpov was beaten in the street by unidentified persons and suffered a concussion; and after several more days, Karpov was expelled from the "Slavic Assembly's" Duma on charges of "cooperating with the Russian Security Ministry."

It is hard to imagine so far what future is in store for the RNA, but it is fairly evident that the Russian opposition is unlikely to be capable of decisive action so long as its leaders take turns trying on Napoleon's cocked hat for size.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Instruction on Central Financing Published

LD1308160193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 13 Aug—The following instruction signed by Boris Yeltsin on Thursday was circulated here today:

"To guarantee the normal functioning of the Russian Federation finance system until the amplifications of the Russian republican budget are implemented, the Council of Ministers-Government, when dealing with matters of centralized financing, is to be guided by the Russian law 'on Russian republican budget for 1993' and the proposals for its amplification presented to the Supreme Soviet."

'Ignoring' Supreme Soviet on Budget Payments

PM1608092493 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Own information report: "Boris Yeltsin Blatantly Flouts Law"]

[Text] The president has issued a directive instructing the government, when deciding the issues of centralized financing, to be guided by the Russian Federation law "On the Russian Federation Republic Budget for 1993" and by the proposals clarifying it submitted by the government itself to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. The president is thus ignoring the clarifications to the republic budget adopted by the Supreme Soviet. This means that all social problems [as published]—payments to budget-sector workers and pensioners, and the financing of the agrarian sector and the defense industry—will be implemented in truncated form.

Finance Ministry Faults Supreme Soviet Amendments to Budget

LD1308202593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The Finance Ministry has criticized the Supreme Soviet's amendments to Russia's budget. The Ministry assessed the draft law passed by the Supreme Soviet on making changes to the budget for 1993 as a sudden manifestation of political populism. The Ministry of Finance believes that the budget approved by the Supreme Soviet goes against the course of economic and social development and cancels out work on stabilizing state finances. That was an ITAR-TASS report.

Government To Support Citizens in Privatization Efforts

LD1408175193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] The Russian Government will take every measure to guarantee participation of citizens in privatization. Opposition to this is doomed to failure since it is against the interests of tens of millions of people who have already become or are yet to become owners, the government's press-service announced today. The leadership of the Russian State Committee for Management of State Property believes that every new attack by the parliament on privatization has increasing less effect on its course. Opponents of privatization are too late, the government's press-service announced, since the process of transferring state property to private hands has become irreversible.

Central Bank's Khandruyev Blasts Finance Ministry Policy

LD1508155293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Aug 93

[By correspondent Ye. Kozenkova, including recorded remarks by Aleksandr Khandruyev, deputy chairman of Central Bank; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] One of the reasons that last week a wave of strikes swept enterprises in the Maritime Kray, Khabarovsk, and Rostov Oblast was that people were not receiving their wages and salaries. The outstanding amount of unpaid wages in Russia in recent times has exceeded 1 trillion rubles. People tend to look for explanations.

Thus, the same rumor emerged in different places—that people are not being paid because there is a shortage of cash, and the shortage of cash is due to monetary reform. We approached the Central Bank of Russia for explanation and were told that this is incorrect. The bank is ready to provide the required funds at any moment, as soon as the Ministry of Finance gives the instruction for this to be done. As for the reason why such an instruction is not upcoming, Aleksandr Khandruyev, deputy chairman of the Central Bank, has his own point of view on the matter:

[Khandruyev] In my opinion, delay in paying peoples' salaries is a result of, well, not very well thought-out actions on the part of the Finance Ministry, because achieving financial stabilization at all costs, a financial stabilization based on artificial delays in paying peoples' salaries, could cause a social explosion. If a social explosion occurs or even if social unrest grows, more money will have to be paid later.

Government Discusses Indexation, Compensation for Savings

PM1308164593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 1

[Roza Sergaziyeva report: "Government Intends To Index Russians' Deposits"]

[Text] A routine sitting of the Presidium of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government was held yesterday on Staraya Square under the chairmanship of Russian Premier V. Chernomyrdin.

The agenda was formulated in such a way that the issue everyone found the thorniest—the indexation of the population's deposits—was placed last.

Finally the time came for this most "venomous" question, as Chernomyrdin put it. Deputy Finance Minister A. Kazmin gave a report on it. As the Russians know, the price liberalization ate up the citizens' savings. And the Supreme Soviet, the Constitutional Court, and the president have all had solutions to the problem of how to compensate the population's losses. According to the calculations of the Ministry of Finance, full compensation would require 9.6 trillion rubles [R], or 25 percent of the federal budget, which is of course impossible and would put an end to all of the government's attempts to carry out financial stabilization. Therefore a phased solution to the problem is being proposed, which is coordinated with the Savings Bank. For example, to compensate the deposits in savings books as of 1 January 1992 by a factor of three.

Proposals were made in parallel to the effect that the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property could take part in the compensation of the population's deposits, that is, open special personal privatization accounts for investors.

Where can the government get the money from for this compensation? The following proposal was also made by the Ministry of Finance: To sell state property which is in the possession of the Central Bank following the disintegration of the USSR. Four former Soviet foreign banks [sovzagranbank]—in London, Vienna, and Paris, and the Singapore branch of the London bank—were named. These banks are in possession of [vladet] $500 million. If all or some of the shares are sold, then the money obtained could be channeled into compensation. Another source was also mentioned—extending sales of jewelry. According to the testimony of the Ministry of Finance, there are 14 tonnes unsold.

According to the next speaker, Russian Savings Bank President O. Yashin, 141 million Russian investors are waiting for the settlement of the compensation issue, and we must do everything we can to make sure there is no commotion or standing in line. According to Yashin, there is no need to divide the investors into small and large investors, the badly-off, invalids, veterans, or pensioners. Everyone should be equal.

Following the discussion the opinion was reached that the final decision on this question would not be taken today. As Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed, we must determine the following as precisely as possible: 1. What we intend to do: compensation [kompensatsiya], material support for investors, or recompense [vozmeshcheniye] the loss suffered by them. 2. What sum should be added onto their accounts and by how many times—three or five. 3. A specific sum and sources of financing must be fully agreed with the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank, and the Savings Bank. And only then, the prime minister stressed, should we convey our decision to the people. This is too serious, we must not make a decision and make promises to everyone—and then not do it. The government postponed for one week a decision on this fundamental issue, a decision which brooks no further delay.

Military Issues

'Depoliticized' Army Not Interested in Coups, Revolutions

PM1608092393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 2

[Oleg Odnokolenko article under "Week's Topic" rubric: "This August Will Be Different!"]

[Text] The reputation of August—in my conviction, previously the most longed-for month of the year—has been badly tarnished. Only the second anniversary of the August putsch will be celebrated in a few days' time, but the specter of another coup is once again hovering in the air and in the mass media. In short, an unlucky month, such an unlucky month!

Today practically everyone is talking about a coup: reds and whites, democrats and communists, parliamentarians and the government. Everyone thinks he sees a conspiracy, and everyone accuses everyone else of evil intent—so that the poor man in the street does not know from which direction to expect another revolutionary act. There is simply some statewide craze for "fateful events on a historic scale."

But why should society not go crazy if sentiments are being fanned at the highest level? People no longer ask why Ruslan Imranovich does not visit the president in the Kremlin, or Boris Nikolayevich visit the speaker at the White House. What is there for them talk about if the branches of power are waging a war to destruction, like people in a feud? Moreover, people are not fastidious about the expressions they use. This is evidently why our corridors of power sound more like the corridors of the General Staff during the war. It was probably only there that people could be heard to say that August "must be used for artillery preparation."

But what, incidentally, about the military itself? Unfortunately, evil tongues have not bypassed the army either. Some maintain that the army is on their side, others—conversely—that it is on theirs. But what is still more popular is the now trite theme of a military conspiracy proper. Quite honestly, it is deadly dull to discourse on this theme. I will only point out that maybe our army really has lost a great deal recently, but at the same time it has also acquired one undoubtedly valuable quality—it has become depoliticized. What, when it comes right down to it, does a military person need? Normal service conditions, wages corresponding to the severity of his labor, and a roof over his head. Maybe from the positions of the past this stance appears somewhat wrong, but it was just such an attitude—exclusively professional—that society sought from the man in uniform in recent years.

Now let us consider the question of whom the army might follow. Of course, each of the political forces, whatever righteous statements they make, secretly reckons on the support of the military. For example, organizations such as the "Officers' Union," on the one hand, and "Soldiers for Democracy," on the other, do not conceal this. They have "emerged from the trenches" inasmuch as they have long been engaging solely in politics, which has become their only daily bread. For them the whole purpose of their existence is to achieve political ends by any means. But for what reason should someone who is simply a military person go into the "final and decisive" [battle]?

In fact, is it conceivable that the army would respond to a call to go boldly into battle, let us say, for parliament? Or, for example, for the Cabinet of Ministers? Can we seriously reckon that soldiers will defend the State Committee for the Management of State Property to the last bullet? Or commercial stores?

There really is nothing in our life at present for which we could lay down our life. The motherland is the only thing, and the army is standing on its borders, enduring all the hardships conceivable and inconceivable. Let the "tested political fighters" fight on the internal political fronts. It seems that they alone in this country have not yet realized that in terms of the performance coefficient one year lived without political upheavals means more in terms of evolution than 10 of the most impressive revolutions.

So this time there will be no tanks in Moscow's streets, comrade gentlemen. This August will be different!

Air Force Day Celebrated in Moscow

LD1608055193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0546 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow August 16 TASS—Thousands of Muscovites and guests of the Russian capital witnessed a spectacular air show held to mark Airforce day at the Tushino Airport inside Moscow.

The show included aerobatics by champions and world record holding helicopter and glider pilots, parachutists and aeromodellers. Airforce test-pilots demonstrated their skills and a wide range of flying techniques.

Among others present at the air show were Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, renowned Russian aces, people's deputies and foreign military attaches.

Yeltsin Sends Greetings

LD1408152793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1518 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 14 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent greetings to the Russian Air Forces officers, soldiers and veterans, as well as aircraft designers and workers of the aircraft industry, congratulating them on Russia's Air Forces Day.

Air Forces officers "steadfastly solve the problems of combat training and reorganisation of the Air Forces, establishment of new aviation groups on the territory of the Russian Federation and mastering modern weapons and military hardware," Yeltsin said in his address.

"Highly assessing the hard work of aviators, I am confident of your readiness to defend the national interests of Russia and fulfill your civic and military duty before the people," the address said.

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Session Reaction to Yeltsin Remarks

LD1308134593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By Aleksandr Shkirando from Supreme Soviet session; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It was expected that the Supreme Soviet would immediately react to Boris Yeltsin's speech in Petrozavodsk, but deputies made their reaction known only toward the end of the session.

[Unidentified deputy chairing proceedings] Perhaps our confident conduct today exemplifies the wisdom of the Supreme Soviet in that we will not allow certain forces to provoke the Supreme Soviet and deflect it from the constructive work we carry out here; we will not allow ourselves to be dragged into a new round of confrontation with the executive authorities and the president, dragged by the president himself. Let the people see for themselves yet again, and let them, as it were, try to analyze who is busy with what in the country.

[Shkirando] Deputies tried to stick strictly to the agenda. Among the issues dealing with Russia's internal matters, the draft decision on federal budget allocations for the Defense Ministry's requirements in the third quarter was at the center of attention. Even though a decision on this issue was adopted, it looks like the deputies themselves failed to understand how effective it will turn out to be for the normal financing of the Defense Ministry. Replying to questions from deputies on why military units and sub- units have not been paid in the past two or three months, a Finance Ministry spokesman said the Defense Ministry itself was to blame for this—the ministry was not financing districts equally. Moreover, the financing system that worked so well in the former Soviet Union is in tatters. Discussion of information concerning the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina evoked animation in the hall. Russian deputies think bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia can be stopped not by NATO bombing raids, but by political means. Touching on Russia's interests in the region, Ambartsumov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, said:

[Ambartsumov] It is a region where Russia not only has geo- political but also historical interests. Naturally, Russia cannot remain indifferent to the destiny of this region.

Khasbulatov Views Yeltsin's 'Threatening' Statement

LD1308175693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent L. Panova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov met with journalists in the White House today and expressed his opinion on recent events, notably the statement addressed to the Supreme Soviet by the president. We in parliament are not preparing for skirmishes and do not intend to carry out artillery preparation, the speaker said.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] In fact, it is no joke when we are turning such a country into an object of ridicule for the entire world community. I mean, our political figures—including me, of course, and all the others, and the president, too—are already being openly mocked by politicians of a significantly lower caliber. [end recording]

In Ruslan Khasbulatov's view, tension is being whipped up in society to divert attention from all the failures of the country's administration. The speaker noted that

deputies are of course uneasy as a result of the threatening statement from the supreme state official. But I am sure, Ruslan Imranovich stressed, that the Supreme Soviet has no less support than the president, and I am convinced that our people will not allow the Supreme Soviet to be disbanded. In that event, the speaker smiled and said, I will appeal to you journalists for help. You, after all, will be on the side of truth and democracy, and democracy today is here, within these walls.

In general, Khasbulatov noted, I am not a supporter of harsh actions. Our weapon is the power of the law. Today all work is being paralyzed by the confrontation between the authorities. In Ruslan Khasbulatov's view, the administration has now lost its direction and if, say, a coalition government which saw its tasks clearly were to appear, this could enable us to overcome the confrontation and emerge at last from the crisis.

Khasbulatov Denies Intent To Resign

LD1308202093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Our correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov attended a news conference by Ruslan Khasbulatov in the White House today. Over to him.

[Osipov] Ruslan Khasbulatov said that the acuteness of the political situation was a consequence of the actions of the executive structures alone. He stressed that the executive bosses need tension in order to divert attention from the failures in governing the country. The Supreme Soviet chairman censured the thesis of resoluteness in political life and economic reforms. Constantly foisting upon society ideas about a new constitution and the necessity of elections, Khasbulatov said, only disturbs people. At the same time, Ruslan Imranovich acknowledged that the legislative power had a share in the unnecessary confrontation of powers and the empty squandering of efforts in political struggle.

He voiced regret that two years after the August events of 1991, the Russian Federation's political structures were in such a lamentable state. True, this does not embarrass him in the least, he has no intention of resigning; and he defined the Supreme Soviet as the sole defender and champion of democracy and parliamentarianism in Russia.

The deputies have heeded my appeals and are not reacting to the president's confrontational statements, Khasbulatov said. This means the Russian Federation parliament has grown up, and enjoys greater popularity among the population.

Khasbulatov was skeptical about the government program for development of the reforms, and said that its main provisions were taken from the declaration of economic accord. The Supreme Soviet chairman did not forget to display his hostility toward certain members of the government yet again: mentioning Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, he said in all seriousness that it was the IMF that had helped the latter to his ministerial post. When Khasbulatov was asked whether he had any specific suggestions for an end to the confrontation of powers, he cited his main idea—to create a government of national accord.

Khasbulatov Meets Foreign Journalists

LD1408113193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Report by announcer T. Khudonbina and correspondent R. Safronov, including recorded remarks by Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Khudonbina] Now we have a report on chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov meeting foreign correspondents today.

[Safronov] Ruslan Khasbulatov has stated that the continuing drop in production and the processes of political and economic disintegration are the major problems in the country today. Stressing the priority of the economic questions, Ruslan Imranovich said the following:

[Khasbulatov] Neither the new constitution nor elections nor re-elections will be capable now of diverting the attention of an enormous number of people—practically, the majority of people—from these vital problems.

[Safronov] In the political sphere, the most important issue in his opinion is the crisis of executive power.

[Khasbulatov] There is practically no person who can be held responsible for managing the country.

[Safronov] However, according to the speaker, he is not in favor of demolishing the institute of the presidency. He believes that the president should be the head of state, but his functions should not extend as far as executive power. Khasbulatov does not believe that confrontation between the parliament and the president is a core problem. In his opinion, the more serious problem is the following:

[Khasbulatov] Contrary to the constitution, the president has set up the so-called administration which, in practice, has replaced the constitutional government. This dualism of executive power causes far more harm.

[Safronov] Commenting on Boris Yeltsin's words that the decisive battle will take place this autumn, the speaker noted that, of course, there will be no elections of any kind. He said that military language is not appropriate for civilian politicians. The chairman of the parliament expressed his concern about the resignation of Barannikov and voiced his apprehension that various provocations inspired by the radical forces and supported by the mafia-type lumpen [lumpenproletariat or petty traders] might occur during the August anniversary celebrations.

Khasbulatov Skips Supreme Soviet, Presidium Sessions

LD1308163893

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1220 GMT on 13 August carries a six-minute report by parliamentary correspondent Olga Vasilenko on today's session of the Russian Supreme Soviet and a sitting of the Presidium. She says the agenda for the session was exhausted by 1300 and goes on to note:

"To the disappointment of some of the journalist corps, there was no discussion on yesterday's meeting between the president and media and his pronouncements regarding the Supreme Soviet, despite the fact that the speech and an appeal by TV company leaders to the president and the government were handed out to deputies this morning."

The correspondent notes that the session adopted a legislative decision on increasing funeral allowances so that as of 1 September this benefit will be around 35,000-36,000 rubles, or fives times the minimum salary.

The issue of financing expenditures on defense and payments to servicemen was also on the agenda. Vasilenko stresses that complaints are being received from everywhere that salaries have not been paid to servicemen for over two months. It was noted that the Central Bank allocates funds for the Finance Ministry, the Finance Ministry transfers the money to the Defense Ministry, and the latter supplies money to districts and servicemen. The Supreme Soviet believes that committees and commissions should work on this issue and should check that the money goes where it is supposed to go.

Vasilenko points out that there is a draft decision on the composition of a commission to check on the activities of the Foreign Ministry but that the parliament did not adopt the draft even as a basis. No explanations were given.

Vasilenko then says: "A session of the Presidium was also held today. Khasbulatov did not attend either session. Both sittings were chaired by First Deputy Chairman Yuriy Mikhaylovich Voronin, and working issues were tackled." The issues covered include the introduction of amendments and addenda to the law on privatizing the housing fund—"we do not know any details," Vasilenko says—and the Supreme Soviet commission for monitoring the sale and use of the property of the Western Group of Forces.

The correspondent reports that Media Committee Chairman Lisin nominated former USSR Deputy Anatoliy Alekseyevich Denisov to the federal supervisory committee for ensuring the freedom of speech on television, but that the issue was cut short.

Vasilenko goes on to point out that deputies received a decision by the Moscow government on holding mass actions on 20 August; two rallies are to be held outside the White House on that day. As there is only a one-hour interval between the rallies, the Supreme Soviet is worried that law enforcement bodies will be unable to ensure order and plans to set up its own organizational committee. Deputy V.I. Novikov is drawing up the composition of the group, which is to be headed by Deputy Ispravnikov, Vasilenko says.

The correspondent concludes by noting that "deputies said they will be working on Friday, 20 August. When there are rallies everywhere, they will be working here."

Deputy Foreign Minister Opposes Air Strikes on Serbs

LD1308143893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1308 GMT 13 Aug 93

[ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 August—At a time when Washington is insistently raising the question of carrying out air strikes on the positions of the Bosnian Serbs, Russia "has been firmly adhering to the policy of settling the Bosnian crisis by political means, taking into consideration the interests of all sides involved in the conflict," said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov as he reported in the Supreme Soviet today on the situation around Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said that the military action on which the United States insists is admissible only under the conditions envisaged in the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. "Strikes of this kind cannot be made unilaterally, but may only be undertaken strictly within the UN framework, after the secretary general has given his sanction," said Boris Kolokolov.

He added that the aim of the policy pursued by Russia's Foreign Ministry was that pressure on the Serbs should be combined with positive responses from the world community. Russia has promised Belgrade that when an agreement on settling the Bosnian crisis is reached, Russia will put forward an initiative to loosen and then remove the sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia, said Boris Kolokolov.

Political Factions Invite Yeltsin to 19 Aug Meeting

LD1308171293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 13 Aug 93

[From the "Parliamentary Hour" program]

[Text] An address to the Russian Federation president was adopted today at a conference of coordinators of the factions into which the people's deputies of the Russian Federation are organized.

Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, the statement says, our purpose in writing this is to draw your attention to some

aspects of the current political situation. Today Russia is going through a difficult period of its history. The burden carried by the three branches of power in Russia—the president, the people's deputies, and the Constitutional Court—is equally heavy.

In order to bring Russia out of the deep crisis, there is an urgent need for close interaction between them, combined with sufficient independence for each of the powers, as well as emphatic respect for the Constitution and the laws of the Russian Federation and wisdom in state matters.

It seems to us that your statement made on 12 August at the conference of representatives of state television and radio companies and the Russian press does not at all correspond with this. Moreover, we consider that your remark about diarchy and on early elections to a new Russian parliament, which are to be held this autumn, are in direct contradiction with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the results of the referendum of 25 April in which the people told both the president and the people's deputies: you must work together. Your approach along the lines of: If the parliament fails to adopt a decision on early elections, the president will make the decision in its stead is anti- constitutional. Neither the Supreme Soviet nor the president have a constitutional right to adopt a decision of this kind.

Under the circumstances, we suggest that a constant dialogue be resumed between the president and the people's deputies of the Russian Federation, and with all factions without exception, in order to search for an appropriate way for the federative Russian state out of the severe crisis. We regret that your promise of regular interaction with the parliament is remaining unfulfilled. The fact that the president's chair underneath the state flag of Russia in the hall where the Supreme Soviet holds its sessions has been empty for more than a year and that you, personally, are not taking part in discussing the most vital and urgent issues faced by the country is becoming unnatural and totally inadmissible.

Esteemed president, we suggest that we should rise above all superficial and petty considerations and unite our efforts in the name of the higher interests of the Russian Federation. We invite you to a meeting with representatives of all political factions next week, on 19 August, or at any other time convenient to you.

Out of 14 factions, 11 have already signed this address.

Isakov Comments on Yeltsin, Constitution Issues

PM1608101393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 93 pp 1-2

[Interview with People's Deputy V. Isakov by Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin; place and date not given: "Seek Accord for Russia's Sake"]

[Text] It was a coincidence. Our conversation with Vladimir Borisovich was already at an end when a report was carried on the radio: During a meeting with representatives of the mass media B. Yeltsin said that if the parliament does not disband itself, we will help it do so. Vladimir Isakov angrily retorted: "It is a sad and sorry thing to see a politician of this level become a political buffoon. Early in his presidency Yeltsin aspired to the role of the new Peter. That did not happen—and he has fallen into the mire and dragged Russia into the mire with him to the amusement of the world." As a matter of fact the subject of how to secure accord in Russia and, on that basis, revive its former might had also been the subject of our conversation.

[Ustyuzhanin] Addressing the Presidential Council 10 August Boris Yeltsin said that September will be a month of crucial political battles and the questions of the Constitution and elections will be resolved.

[Isakov] Judging by how events are developing, the constitutional process has reached deadlock. Oblast soviets are not supporting the draft Constitution the president sent them for agreement. Admittedly, serious reservations are also being voiced with regard to the Constitutional Commission's draft. By and large the president's constitutional initiative has not brought the adoption of a Fundamental Law any closer but has, on the contrary, made it more remote.

[Ustyuzhanin] What is the solution?

[Isakov] We are entering the second round of coordination of the drafts. The components of the Federation are discussing the two alternative drafts, both of which the president has, in effect, submitted. There are a number of pressing problems that the Constitution must resolve. Above all, leveling out the economic status of republics, krays, and oblasts. The separation of powers has not been fully completed either. Around 200 deputies in our country combine their deputy's mandate with a post within the executive structures. Needless to say, that is wrong.

I think it necessary to prepare for serious reform of the presidential and the representative power taking into consideration the way in which they operate under present conditions. We are drafting a law on amendments and addenda to the Russian Federation Constitution for this purpose. The proposed amendments will be discussed extensively and publicly, with the participation of Federation components and representatives of the executive power, the business world, and the public—everyone who has an interest in creating a new, truly effective mechanism of power.

[Ustyuzhanin] How does your way of resolving the crisis of power differ from that which the president is proposing?

[Isakov] Our way is based on rigorous compliance with the norms of the Constitution and the laws. Regrettably, the president and his entourage are constantly making attempts to impel the country into some kind of emergency measures, creating unconstitutional structures,

and supplanting legitimate organs of power. And there have recently been outright threats of a coup—once again emanating from the president's entourage and Boris Nikolayevich's supporters.

In my view, such actions are not only illegal but also anticonstitutional. And they are also infeasible in practice. The authors of these ideas have evidently not yet realized that they are living in a different country: No one today would stand to attention before a dictator who usurps power by unconstitutional means. An attempt to organize a coup will inevitably lead to deadlock because the republics, krays, and oblasts will not support anticonstitutional actions. It is quite obvious that such an attempt would see its initiators and organizers end up in the dock. And very quickly!

I think they themselves realize that. The statement the president ventured to make stirs up society, destabilizes the situation—and nothing more. A real attempt to smash the state system heralds utter political suicide.

[Ustyuzhanin] Is parliament willing to meet him halfway, to hold out its hand to accord?

[Isakov] The confrontation has never emanated from the Supreme Soviet. Parliament has always acted strictly on the basis of the Constitution. The Supreme Soviet has never taken or planned any illegal actions against the president. We certainly have different approaches on questions of privatization, economic reform, and foreign and domestic policy. But that is natural. It would be strange if there were total unanimity on all matters. The whole question is how to resolve these conflicts—through political attacks, bad-mouthing of and threats against the representative organs of power, or on the basis of trust? I call once again for normal dialogue and cooperation on the only basis that exists in a civilized society—on the basis of the Constitution and the laws.

[Ustyuzhanin] You said that the Committee on Constitutional Legislation is drafting proposals for reform of the presidential and the representative authorities. What is the crux of these proposals?

[Isakov] There are several elements. A single legislative body must be elected in the next elections. It is time to abandon the two-tier Congress of People's Deputies-Supreme Soviet system. I am in favor of electing the next body of deputies in two stages with a two-year interval between them. That will ensure continuity in the work of parliament and the latter's gradually renewed. We know from other countries' experience that when the corps of deputies is renewed gradually, there are no abrupt gaps and surges in legislative work.

Separation of powers among the representative power, the executive, and the president is another complex issue. The draft law's main idea is to separate the functions of the president—the head of state—and the chairman of the Council of Ministers—the head of the executive. The entire fullness of executive power must be handed over to the prime minister. In my view, that will help relieve the government's current irresponsibility and impotence and enable it to manage the national economy effectively. The president is evidently also aware that this problem requires a solution. It is, after all, no coincidence that his draft Constitution also envisages separating the functions of head of state and head of the executive power.

Parliament To Debate Constitutional Amendments

LD1208150593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—The Committee on Constitutional Legislation proposed several amendments to the Russian fundamental law at a joint sitting on Thursday [12 August]. They were submitted by committee head Vladimir Isakov.

He said that amendments deal, above all, with streamlining the status of the Russian Federation's members: "The problem which has generated the second parade of sovereignties".

Isakov also noted that, according to new amendments, legislators cannot work at government organisations. They cannot hold the posts of prime minister, vice-premiers, ministers and state committee chairmen. Staffers of the president's office and of organisations set up under this office as well as the president's representatives and embassy staff members cannot be elected to parliament.

An amendment provides for striking out of the Constitution a provision recording the right of the Congress of People's Deputies (extended legislature) to resolve any problem of the country.

On the other hand, another amendment, in fact, overrides the previous one by saying: "The congress executes other powers vested in it by the Constitution and Russian laws".

One of amendments proposes that the prime minister should form the cabinet, relieving the president of this function.

Still another amendment says that "only a Russian national at the age of between 35 and 65 who has the right to vote and is capable of performing the functions of the head of state, may be elected president of the Russian Federation".

Commission To Supervise Deals by Western Group of Forces

LD1408085993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Russia's Supreme Soviet intends to form a commission to supervise the marketing and use of the

Western Group of Forces' equipment and other Russian property on German territory.

The commission is being set up with a view to protecting Russia's economic interests connected with the withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces to Russian territory, and the comprehensive resolution of questions involving the search for, and confirmation of, rights to Russian property on German territory.

The draft provisions regarding the commission say that it must be endowed with the powers of a local branch of the Russian Foundation of Federal Property. The commission will coordinate its operational activity with the State Committee for the Management of Property and work in interaction with the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, and external economic ties, and other departments concerned.

Deputies Favor Tougher Regime in Ossetian-Ingush Area

LD1308181093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—Russian People's Deputy Anatoliy Anikiyev told a Parliament session today "the state of emergency regime in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone must be toughened".

Anikiyev headed a parliament group, which visited the conflict zone. Reporting the results of their trip, the deputy stressed "the analysis of the situation and actions of representatives of central and local state power and management bodies testifies to the absence of their interaction and inefficiency of their actions to solve the problem".

The temporary administration has had five heads over the past nine months, which, in Anikiyev's words, "does not help to establish confidence in relations of the temporary administration and the local power bodies". The interaction between interior and security bodies of Russia and the republics is also insufficient.

"The inability of central and local power bodies to control the situation, which is known in both republics, plays into hands of extremists," said the deputy.

He called for fulfilling the resolution of the Council of Nationalities on creation in the state of emergency zone of a group of representatives of the Russian Parliament and Government, as well as state power and management bodies of both republics and giving it the powers to take decisions on the spot.

It is also necessary to instruct the republics' leadership to elaborate a joint plan to establish confidence.

"If these measures prove to be inefficient, the introduction of the state of emergency on the whole territory of Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia must be prepared in a short time," said Anikiyev. In his words, it is an "extreme measure, since the possibility to settle the conflict with peaceful means has not been lost. Still, little time is left".

Regional Affairs

Officials View Yeltsin Address in Petrozavodsk

LD1308122493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0849 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Vyacheslav Shevtsov]

[Text] Petrozavodsk, 13 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, has described today's session of the council of heads of republics as a turning point.

As you know, the contradictory and difficult process of analyzing the nature of Russia's statehood and its internal structure has been under way recently, he stressed in a statement to journalists. The question of the relationship between the rights of republics, on the one hand, and those of oblasts and krays, on the other, has been a particularly awkward one. The krays and oblasts, Vyacheslav Kostikov continued, have expressed much criticism and dissatisfaction with the way the republics have been flexing their muscles as a counterweight to the political rights of oblasts and krays.

In recent months, the press secretary continued, there has been a great deal of argument over the limits of sovereignty. Certain republican leaders, especially those of a nationalist inclination, have placed too broad an interpretation on the concept of sovereignty. They have even gone so far as to insert clauses in their constitutions on the possibility of secession from the Russian Federation. "I would describe such ambitions as a kind of geopolitical nonsense," the president's press secretary said. "Geopolitical holes" cannot be allowed to form in the fabric of Russia. "Russia is not a piece of Swiss cheese," Vyacheslav Kostikov said. "It is a single, monolithic state."

The press secretary believes that in this respect the speech Boris Yeltsin made today is "a mild, cautious, and at the same time firm warning to supporters of so called 'unlimited sovereignty.'" The president's idea that "there is no such thing as absolute sovereignty" is a firm expression and confirmation that Russia should not be divided, the press secretary believes. This is a very important factor for stability and for reassuring the Russian population, which has recently been expressing some concern and even irritation about "the display of sovereignty" [parada suvereniterov] by the republics and oblasts.

In this respect, the notion expressed by Boris Yeltsin today about the necessity of returning to the idea of a

federation council is a very constructive one, the press secretary said. This will be a body for coordinating the interests of republics, krays, and oblasts. Until recently, we had the situation when the republics existed on their own, in their own closed space, while the krays and oblasts had their own space. There were no effective bridges of mutual understanding between them. The idea of setting up a federation council was earlier submitted for the consideration of the Congress of People's Deputies but was rejected. But a council of federations will provide the opportunity to harmonize the interests of all components of the Russian Federation, Vyacheslav Kostikov said.

The press secretary answered a question on the prospect of early parliamentary elections. He said that, judging from conversations in the lobby of the conference, there appears to be support for this idea. "This is now a pressing issue, because the political crisis should be resolved as soon as possible."

Smirnyagin Assesses Decisions

LD1308133393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Vyacheslav Shevtsov]

[Text] Petrozavodsk August 13 TASS—Leonid Smirnyagin, member of the Presidential Council, regards the creation of the Federation Council as an important decision of the Council of Heads of the Republics of the Russian Federation, which ended here today. Previously the situation was different: The republics were very particular about their right to contact the president.

The second important decision, in his opinion, is the intention to hold a joint session of the constitutional conference and the constitutional commission in mid-September. The president, he said, raised the problem in a categoric way and was supported by the session. "If any of the republics fail to complete the work in time, we shall take it that you have no objections and shall adopt the constitution without your participation," the president said, according to Smirnyagin.

He believes the republics will, most probably, come up with the legislative initiative in order to remove from the constitution the package of issues on federal bodies of power and to discuss and adopt them in an accelerated way. According to Smirnyagin, most probably, it will be decided to adopt a provisional constitutional law for the transitional period, at least on matters of federal power.

The member of the Presidential Council called attention to one more fact. "By all appearances, the republics are giving their word to the president that if they adopt at their parliaments a certain resolution about the constitution, deputies from those republics to the Russian Parliament will be obliged to support the stands assumed by their respective republics," he said. This is why the republics are assuring the president that, if the constitution is adopted by members of the federation, it will also be adopted by the Congress of People's Deputies, Smirnyagin said.

Results of Meeting Viewed

LD1308184693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Vyacheslav Shevtsov]

[Text] Petrozavodsk August 13 TASS—The Council of Heads of Republics of the Russian Federation held a session in the city of Petrozavodsk, northern Russia, on Friday [13 August]. The session was attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Deputy Parliament Chairman Nikolay Ryabov, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, heads of Russian constituent republics with the exception of the Chechen Republic, as well as heads of eight regional and inter-regional associations. The agenda included two questions—the mechanism of the implementation of the federal treaty and discussion and adoption of a new constitution.

The signing of the federal treaty was the first stage of the constitutional reform and the transformation of Russia into a genuine federation. After the adoption of the treaty there emerged four independent, but still interrelated tasks.

The first one is a thorough examination of the federal legislation aimed at eliminating the norms which do not fall within the sphere of competence of the federation. The second one is the transformation of laws of joint jurisdiction into the fundamentals of legislation. The third task is the creation of effective legislation on the level of members of the federation, and the fourth one is the development of agreements on mutual delegation of powers.

The federal authorities will bear the main responsibility for the fulfilment of the first two tasks, the president stressed. At the same time, the initiative and responsibility for working out and adopting laws dealing with the spheres of competence of republics, territories and regions, as well as specific agreements, rests with members of the federation themselves. Yeltsin regretted that this process is proceeding "very slowly."

He pointed to the need to draw a clearly-defined line between the powers of the federal and regional authorities and described as a "headache" the issue of joint jurisdiction of the federal and local bodies of power. The federal bodies of power still cling to the old practice of exerting total control in this sphere, the president added.

However all these processes are taking place within one, integral state. "We have no moral, historic or legal right to destroy it," he stressed. "Nobody can disassociate himself from changes going on in Russia. Russia will remain an integral state," Yeltsin said. He believes this

will happen either on the basis of civilised and constitutional changes or through the use of crude force and arbitrariness of dictatorship. There is no other alternative, the Russian leader emphasized.

Yeltsin believes that the adoption of the fundamentals of Russian legislation on the implementation of federal treaty is the right approach. It does not infringe upon the rights of republics and provides an opportunity for developing concrete proposals on the reflection of the provisions of the federal treaty in the federal legislation. The president noted that this work should be coordinated with all members of the federation.

The president stressed the need to work out a mechanism for coordinating activities of the heads of republics and other members of the federation. The absence of such mechanism is the cause of many problems concerning the future of the federal system.

Yeltsin spoke against mechanical merging of the Council of Heads of Republics and the Council of Regional Heads. He pointed to another way: their sessions can be held with an enlarged representation of regional and inter-regional associations, or else a new legitimate body of power may be set up, a Council of the Federation. Each of the 88 members of the federation could be represented in the council by two people, 176 people in all.

Speaking about the pace of work on a new Russian constitution, Yeltsin stressed that its adoption is closely connected with the implementation of the federal treaty.

The draft constitution worked out and approved by the Constitutional Assembly should be now agreed with regional bodies of power. The Constitutional Assembly will resume in September, Yeltsin recalled, adding that the fate of the future constitution will depend to a great extent on a position of the Council of Heads of Republics.

"I do not rule out the possibility of adopting a constitutional law for a transitional period. Through it we could move to new elections, thus resolving the problem of dual power before it paralyses the entire country," the president concluded.

The participants in the meeting voted to approve on the whole the fundamentals of the Russian legislation on the implementation of the federal treaty. They also agreed to hold a joint session of the Constitutional Assembly and the Constitutional Commission in mid- September. The working group has been instructed to finalise the fundamentals which will be then passed on to the Council of Nationalities of the Russian Parliament.

The draft law will also be submitted to the Government, as well as local bodies of power.

The president has been urged to organise the work of the Council of the Federation as a consultative body to discuss economic, state and federal development. The Council will consists of heads of legislative and executive bodies of power in regions and constituent republics. The participants stressed the need to support Yeltsin's efforts aimed at establishing an economic union with other CIS states and welcomed the decision by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to join the rouble zone.

"I am fully satisfied with the results of the meeting," Yeltsin told journalists. He will return to Moscow later today.

Yeltsin Returns to Moscow

LD1308180793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1754 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin returned from Petrozavodsk to Moscow tonight after attending a meeting of the Council of Republican heads.

Soskovets Visits Khabarovsk Territory

LD1608085093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0804 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Khabarovsk August 16 TASS—Russia's First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Soskovets today was handed a petition demanding that the government change its policy, curb the production slump and ensure the normal standard of living for the inhabitants of the Russian far east. The petition was signed by the employees of the Khabarovsk-based Splav (alloy) enterprise.

The petition was handed in when the governmental delegation led by Soskovets arrived at enterprise to look into the situation in the region's economy.

Delegation members are expected to take part in a conference to discuss the territory's economic problems and ways to pull enterprises out of the crisis.

Just as other enterprises of the defence sector, Splav has to fulfil its conversion programme without serious financial support from the state. Last year, funds earmarked for conversion were received in December and not a single rouble of the promised 240 million roubles for 1993 have yet been received.

The delegation also visited another defence enterprise, the Gorkiy plant, where the conversion programme is being implemented much more effectively. The output of defence products has been cut to 30 per cent of the total output, but this plant, too, is in a grave financial situation because its customers have no money to pay for the products. The work collective called a warning strike last week.

Soskovets and other government delegation members visited the construction site of the Khabarovsk airport and then inspected the reconstruction of the railway

bridge built across the Amur river before the 1917 revolution. Work here is also impeded by irregular financing.

Views Industrial Problems

LD1608121193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Khabarovsk, 16 Aug—Stabilization of industrial production is possible in the very near future, Oleg Soskovets, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, said in reply to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent at a news conference. I think it will be possible to achieve this in a year, or a maximum of two years, on condition that the main issues of improving credit and financial relations are resolved. He stressed that the situation at defense enterprises, where the crisis has acquired a lingering nature, was causing the main concern.

At a conference today of government delegation members and managers of enterprises, bodies of power, and the management of Khabarovsk Kray, the dialogue was pointed. Not only the kray's defense enterprises but also power engineering, agriculture, transport, construction, and other industries are experiencing difficulties. The key problems, the solution of which was only possible at the government level, were mentioned. The people of the Far East demand that the government's financial and credit policy be changed and that budget finances be allocated as priority for construction of power engineering facilities and reconstruction of the railway bridge near Khabarovsk that is of strategic importance, not only for the region, but also for Russia as a whole.

The speakers were proving convincingly . t, in particular, the hasty creation of joint-stock companies had been one of the reasons for the breakdown of a powerful construction complex in the Amur region, which was now fragmented and no longer able to govern itself and which had lost its potential.

Proposals to introduce obligatory state regulation of fuel prices, to set transport charges to rights, and to ensure that the conversion program and the agro-industrial complex development program are financed from the budget were put forward as essential conditions for stabilization of the economy. This is all the more relevant, given that the kray pays its federal budget dues on time. More than 61 billion rubles have been transferred to the Russian budget by way of profit tax alone since the beginning of the year.

The government delegation is due to depart by air to Komsomolsk-na-Amure and Amurskiy on 17 August.

Comments on Ukraine

LD1608102793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Russia will continue supplying Ukraine with fuel, Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, said today at a meeting with industrial leaders in Khabarovsk Kray. Bearing in mind that a large number of Russians live in that republic, the government is taking steps to ensure that normal economic life is possible in the Ukraine, he stressed.

Chernomyrdin Views Kamchatka's Social, Economic Problems

LD1608083493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0652 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, 16 Aug—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who arrived here today, is focusing on the socioeconomic problems of Kamchatka oblast.

He visited the Petropavlovsk Lenin shipyard, which is the region's major enterprise. The yard is experiencing difficult times, because the crisis in the fishing industry has resulted in a decline in the number of orders. The enterprise is on the brink of closure but, paradoxically, many Kamchatkan vessels are being sent abroad for repair. The prime minister discussed this and other problems with workers.

Asked by one worker about when the executive and legislative authorities are going to stop fighting one another, Viktor Chernomyrdin said, in particular: "For me, all these head-on clashes are tragic, but I can say that I am not playing any games either with the right wing or the left wing. It is not for the government to engage in political intrigue. On this we hold a clear stance—to work, to continue the reforms."

Many Kamchatkans are worried about whether to leave the peninsula and abandon everything, or to stay. The head of the government looks at the problem thus: "Of course it is undesirable to leave. The conditions for normal life need to be created here. Today, Kamchatka, like the whole of the Far East, finds itself in a very grave situation during the reforms. I think we will be adopting a special government decision and creating benefits for those in the Far East."

The prime minister is expected to meet with naval seamen today. A conference with the leadership of the oblast's administration and oblast soviet is also expected. Tomorrow, Viktor Chernomyrdin is scheduled to fly to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

Khasbulatov Comments on Representative Power, Soviets

LD1308174893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Speech by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, "during celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the battle of Kursk" in Belgorad Oblast; date not given; from the "Parliamentary Hour" program—recorded]

[Text] The collegial bodies known as soviets naturally gather together people of differing views, differing standpoints, and different moral orientations. It is even true that people who don't have the best possible qualities also get in sometimes, but in principle, this system of people's power, based on a free choice which people have made, presupposes that no matter how they might quarrel there, no matter how disgraceful, perhaps, the motivation for their activities and behavior, this process of debate will ultimately lead to the correct decisions. On the whole, they are the correct ones.

Therefore, I firmly assert—I am absolutely convinced of this, without seeking to score any political points—that the system of soviets must not just be retained, it must be strengthened. Anybody who opposes this system must disappear from the political scene in the Russian Federation [applause], no matter who he might be, no matter what post he might hold. He must accept that, in this instance, he is defying the wishes of the people and opposing democracy, no matter what fine words he might come out with.

Therefore the constitutional drafts, good or bad as they may be, must be approached quite unambiguously from the premise that the soviets are the basis of people's power. No other organs of people's power have been conceived in our country. The soviets have roots going back many centuries. The fact that we have quite rightly decided to modernize the soviets is another matter. Our aim is to make them truly democratic, to municipalize them to some extent. This system, in which the role of the soviets, as organs of people's power, is more of a supervisory nature, is characteristic of the way things are done all over the world, but these supervisory functions must genuinely permeate everything, all spheres of life. Executive authority must, of course, be subject to tough control by representative authority.

The chairman of your oblast has just returned from Germany. He told me something I have been aware of for at least 20 years. In Germany, he says, they have their own system of soviets. They call it something else, but basically it is the same system. The difference is that decisions made by the representative authorities are binding there. If some minister of finance or other tries to ignore the wishes of parliament, he will find himself driven out of the country. He will never be released from prison. In other words, a law adopted by the representative branch is binding, but this presupposes a respectful attitude on the part of the executive authorities. This presupposes a high degree of professionalism on the part of those officials who exercise executive power.

So they have an organic combination there. This makes a struggle between the two branches of power impossible. It is out of the question. It doesn't happen anywhere else. Such a thing can only happen in our country. In the old days we used to speak of partocrats. Today, all of a sudden, they have become—I don't know what to call them now—democrats, maybe. I have always thought of myself as a reasonable person, but what is the purpose of this artificial whipping-up of hysteria over what are sometimes quite trivial questions? The purpose is to escape from control.

Situation Remains Tense in North Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD1408132693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, August 14 (TASS)—The situation remains tense in the zone of the state of emergency in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, according to reports from the North Ossetian Security Council.

The report said the shelling of residential areas and attacks on police units and army outposts aimed at seizing weapons continue. Residents of the village of Stary Batakoyurt came under fire when they were working in the field. Two of them were wounded. A military patrol called to the scene opened retaliatory fire. As a result, one attacker was killed and the rest escaped. Sporadic gun fire was reported near the villages of Kartsa, Oktyabrskoye and Olginskoye. No casualties have been reported.

Local cossacks held a rally in the centre of Vladikavkaz on Saturday [14 August] calling for urgent measures to ensure the security of civilians. Similar rallies were organised in the city of Mineralnye Vody and the Mozdok district of North Ossetia.

Vice Premier Lobov Outlines Plan To End Crisis

LD1408014693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1926 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[Text] Lipetsk, 13 Aug—An unexpected question was asked towards the end of the meeting which Russian Federation First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov held today in Lipetsk. The economics minister, who visited the Novolipetsk metallurgical combine and tractor factory, was asked to give an account of his own program for getting out of the crisis. Reports about the existance of this document have found their way into the press and have met with what Oleg Lobov himself called a hostile assessment.

"We have not tried to envelop our plans in a curtain of secrecy," said Oleg Lobov, "even though there is only one copy of the document. Its essence is expressed by two mutually related tenets. The first is that it is not only a tight credit policy that is needed. An integrated approach is also needed, including sensible investment. Capital investment must not be kept at eight percent of the gross national product. If this happens then the production slump will continue."

"In order to get out of the crisis 20 to 25 percent of the gross national product must be used to renew production, for the building of roads and housing and for infrastructure. We are frightened that if this happens inflation will increase. But no, it will not. We can prove this through calculations. The budget will not decrease, quite the reverse, it will be increased at the expense of an increase in goods supply. The second question based on principle is that of privatization. It must bring an incomparably large amount of revenue into the state treasury. A complex of measures has been envisaged for this as well."

He said that he did not look on this program as an alternative to the ones already in existence. Our suggestions are aimed at continuing reform. But by civilized methods, taking into account the possibility of state influence on the regulation process of the economy, Oleg Lobov noted.

Russia's first vice premier goes to Voronezh tomorrow morning.

Views Agrarian Issues

LD1408102993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Starukhin]

[Text] Voronezh August 14 TASS—Oleg Lobov, first deputy prime minister and minister of economy of Russia, arrived in Voronezh from Liptsk today. The visit is of a confidential nature, a spokesman for the regional administration told ITAR-TASS.

According to the existing information, Lobov had a meeting with Governor Aleksandr Kovalyov. They discussed matters dealing with the government's debt to the agrarian sector and the absence of allocations for the redeployment of units of the Northern Army Group from Germany to the Voronezh region.

Discusses Oil, Fuel Prices

LD1408174993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By correspondent A. Abramenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Tatyana Khudobina] Russian First Deputy I ne Minister Oleg Lobov paid a brief visit to Voronezh and Rostov-na-Donu today. However, despite the brevity of the meetings he had there, representatives of the two regions had enough time to set forth the essence of their numerous grievances against the government.

[Abramenko] Oleg Lobov, a first deputy prime minister in the Russian Government who is on a working tour of Russia's southern oblasts, held a working meeting in Rostov today with representatives of the administrations of the oblasts's towns and rayons, the management of industrial enterprises, and the agricultural sector.

Prices of grain and fuel resources were again among the main points of discussion at the meeting. For Rostov oblast, with 70 percent of its gross income coming from the countryside, this problem is today a deciding factor, which can at present only further destabilize its difficult economic situation. Therefore, the management of the oblast's agricultural sector believes that the government has to place grain and oil prices on an equal footing, as it is done in prosperous countries. Otherwise, not only farmers, but also industrialists will be driven to the wall. Take the giant Rostselmash works—even now demand for its products drops because of farmers' inability to pay for them.

[Khudobina] Answering questions, Oleg Lobov stressed that the government will shortly table a proposal on taxes to boost the operation of goods producers. Oleg Lobov also said that the countryside will get its credits, but he noted that with the present rate of inflation, a credit with the annual interest rate of 190 percent can be regarded as preferential treatment.

Confers With Tula Arms Manufacturers

MK1408081093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report under the "Provinces" rubric: "Vice Premier Off to Russian Arms Manufacturers"]

[Text] Russian Deputy Premier Oleg Lobov, who arrived in Tula yesterday, took part in a conference of the region's directors who discussed the work of the oblast's industries in 1993. It was pointed out during the conference that industrial production fell 18 percent over seven months and affected an overwhelming majority of enterprises. Especially hard hit are defense enterprises slated for conversion, which constitute up to 70 percent of the oblast's industrial potential. The enterprise directors urged a speedy intervention by the government into the economic situation. Among the measures they suggest is the introduction of government control over the energy sector, updating defense orders for 1994 and the years to come, passing of normative acts to define the status of defense enterprises and their operation in conditions of conversion, easing of tax policy, and timely allocation of conversion and other credits for federal programs. Taking stock of the conference, the deputy premier emphasized the need for streamlining the tax system and increasing investments to expand production. He noted the imperfection of the current law on enterprises and

stressed that the state's control role should be enhanced. Oleg Lobov also intimated that the president and the Council of Ministers chairman were supportive of proposals to give major arms manufactures direct access to the world market.

Krasnoyarsk Kray Aide on 11 Aug Meeting With Yeltsin

PM1308155993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviet Chairman Vyacheslav Novikov by Viktor Petrovskiy; place and date not given; carried under "Regional Politics" rubric: "Dialogue in Kremlin"]

[Text] A session of the Council of Heads of Republics takes place in Petrozavodsk today under the chairmanship of President Boris Yeltsin. Taking part in the session are the chairmen of interregional associations—"Siberian Agreement," and the Northwestern, North Caucasus, and Central Chernozem associations. The subject of discussion will be constitutional reform and bringing closer together the regions' and republics' positions on the question of the principles of Russia's federative structure.

Earlier, on Wednesday [11 August], there was a meeting in the Kremlin between the president and leaders of kray and oblast soviets—Vladimir, Krasnodar, Rostov-na-Donu, Tomsk, and Tyumen soviets—and of St. Petersburg City Soviet.

Has the president decided to consult the soviets?

We contacted Vyacheslav Novikov, a participant in the meeting who is chairman of Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviet and coordinator of the Association of Chairmen of Russian Federation Oblast Soviets.

[Petrovskiy] Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich, what was discussed?

[Novikov] The president invited us in order to discuss the situation that has arisen in connection with the constitutional process. We told the president that this process will inevitably become deadlocked unless the question of making regions equal with republics is resolved. In order to resolve it a Federation Council [Sovet Federatsiya] must be created which would comprise the leaders of the executive and representative branches of the republics, krays, and oblasts.

[Petrovskiy] Did you sense that the president can no longer fail to take account of the regions' interests?

[Novikov] Yes, that is probably so. We agreed on two things: First, the president accepted the idea of the Federation Council that we proposed; second, he agreed with our contention that the constitutional process will be paralyzed without the transfer of certain rights to the regions. In general the conversation was normal. It was a real dialogue. The president told us that he would put the questions we raised to the participants in the Petrozavodsk conference.

Presidential Envoys Hold Conference in Irkutsk

LD1608060493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0556 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[Text] Irkutsk August 16 TASS—The Russian president's envoys to Russian provinces, including republics, territories, regions and areas within the Russian Federation, met in Irkutsk today to analyze relations between themselves and local authorities and public organisations in the regions.

The Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's supreme legislature, has repeatedly called for the abolition of this institution—the president's envoys to the provinces. The president, for his part, has repeatedly decreed the consolidation and the expansion of powers vested in his envoys.

The previous conference had been held in Suzdal a year ago. This year it was scheduled to be held in the village of Listvyanka on Lake Baykal. But the recent torrential rains disrupted motor vehicle links between Irkutsk and Listvyanka.

The conference in Irkutsk is being held behind closed doors.

Rutskoy Grants Interview on Far East Tour

OW1408005693

[Editorial Report] Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian at 0825 GMT on 23 July begins a program devoted to Russian Vice President Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy's visit to Vladivostok. The program begins with an interview with Rutskoy by an unidentified reporter representing the Vladivostok Television "Local Time" program apparently recorded in Vladivostok in the morning of 23 July. The reporter asks Rutskoy about his impressions from his tour of the Far East. Rutskoy says: "Well, what can I say? I visited Blagoveshchensk in Amur Oblast, Khabarovsk Kray as well as Khabarovsk City and Komsomolsk-na-Amure. Now I am in Vladivostok. The general impression has been good. Why? Because first of all I have never been here, and secondly because the people here are wonderful. They are great people despite the economic and political situation that is taking shape on every side. Somehow they accept it with an inner tolerance, which cannot be said about some other regions. Of course there is a limit to everything. The critical mass has been rising and rising and as you know, the critical mass also has a certain limit.

"But all the people have been very kind and our welcome has been marvelous. Many people came to meet us. I met labor collectives at plants, representatives of public and

political movements, and the public. My meetings were very interesting, and I must tell you that I learned a lot because every region has its own specific features and it would be simply impossible to ignore these features. So that is the general picture."

The reporter then notes that there have been various rumors about Rutskoy's visit and suggests that the president is not too happy with his travels. He then asks Rutskoy about the aim of his Far East tour.

Rutskoy says: "You know, recently, I am not the least bit interested in whether or not the president is pleased. I have my task and he has his. My task is to prevent further disintegration of the country; to prevent further economic, social, and political crisis. He has a completely different aim. So the aims facing me are, generally speaking, my tasks. I am traveling, studying public opinion, and amending my program, which I have practically completed. A large group of scientists and specialists is working on it. My book *On Russia Today and Tomorrow* [*O Nastoyashchem i Budushchem Rossii*] will be published some time at the end of this month or in August. This book objectively analyses everything that has happened with us and proposes strategic directions for getting out of this incomprehensible state. If we remain in this condition we will simply destruct, because the basic indicators of economic recession, industrial recession, and production recession can be measured up against or compared only to the period before the Great Patriotic War and they already surpass them.

"Now the indicators ... take a person's life expectancy for instance. In some regions the mortality rate exceeds the birth rate three and a half times. This almost amounts to a combat situation."

The reporter then says: "One more request, Aleksandr Vladimirovich. Our program will be on the air live at 1930 [0830 GMT] today. Could you come directly to our studio and answer television viewers' questions directly on the air?" Rutskoy answers: "With pleasure, but I must take a look at my schedule. I am a disciplined person and so I never violate anything. Very well, I will definitely be there."

At 0830 GMT the Vladivostok Radio program continues after a short break. The program is broadcast live and is being shown simultaneously by Vladivostok Television. An announcer says: "Good evening dear television viewers. In the 'Local Time' studio is Sergey Lipus, the anchor, and Yelena Urazbayeva is at the editorial desk. As usual, we are on the air live, not only on television but on radio as well. I would immediately like to draw your attention to the fact that today we have three contact telephones rather than the usual one."

Lipus then welcomes Rutskoy to the studio and in anticipation of telephone calls asks him to say a few words. Rutskoy greets the people of Maritime Kray on Navy Day, and says: "As you know, Russia was, is, and will be a maritime power and the Pacific Fleet made a considerable contribution to the history of formation of the Russian Fleet and the fleet of the Soviet Army."

Lipus takes up the naval topic and asks Rutskoy to comment on what is now happening in Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet. Rutskoy says: "My position on the Crimea, Sevastopol, and the Black Sea Fleet has not changed for the past two years, and I consider that Boris Nikolayevich made a big mistake. He should have firmly and clearly declared that not a millimeter of Russian land would be given to anybody. Now what could be done? The situation that has developed makes it difficult today to adopt political decisions or decisions relating to the Black Sea Fleet's defense and protection, but I think that the time will come when we will sort things out all together. A trend toward this already exists on the part of the Ukrainian people, who have come out against us being separated by borders and customs. I think this issue will be solved. We will have unified [yedinyye] armed forces, including a unified fleet and the problems we have today with Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet will be resolved."

Lipus asks Rutskoy how he would act if military action was required against the Ukraine, Rutskoy says: "No, this is quite inconceivable, although some leaders, including some political and military leaders of the Ukraine, in drawing up the questionnaire for those who were taking the oath of allegiance to the Ukraine asked the question—and it was a significant question—are you prepared to fight against Russia? Thank God nobody in Russia was asked a question of this sort and I think it will not be asked. Today's political situation already indicates...[pauses] We meet fairly often with the social and political movements of the Ukraine and a proposal has been made to hold a joint referendum among the Ukrainian, Belarusian, Russian, and Kazakh people on the formation of a political and economic union and on the establishment of unified armed forces.

"Presently, active work is underway in social and political movements to implement this referendum and in Russia this work is being done by the Civic Union and the Coalition of Civic Forces. As you know, this centrist movement was formed a year and a half ago and literally a month ago the movement was strengthened by the creation of a Coalition of Civic Forces as well. I think there is a need to hold this referendum and, thereby, to promote the solution of many problems that have arisen between Russia and the Ukraine, particularly problems relating to the Crimea and Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet as well.

"So I felt and still feel that decisions adopted at a presidential level should first of all be based on moral and spiritual values in relation to our own people, to history, and the state. When an unequivocal position is adopted, particularly one involving territorial claims, it should be totally demanding not only to one's self but toward all Russian political leaders and figures as well. This position should support the defense of Russia's interests and should defend them."

Lipus then asks Rutskoy to describe in greater detail his mutual relations with President Yeltsin, "so that your position will become absolutely clear." Rutskoy says: "You know, I am often asked this question: How is it that Vice President Rutskoy has set a precedent in world practice, in political practice? How is it that the president and vice president apparently oppose one another? Of course, it is painful to talk about this today, particularly in view of the results that we have today in terms of economic processes and state construction. It hurts to talk about this, but, unfortunately, I must. The fact of the matter is...[changes thought] It was no coincidence that I quite recently wrote a fairly voluminous article: 'The President's Program Has Been Fulfilled Exactly in Reverse.'

"If you pay attention and carefully read the entire preelection program which we had with Boris Nikolayevich, you will see that today I am defending it. I am not inventing anything and am acting in accordance with this program. Why? Because I brought this program to public attention, just as Boris Nikolayevich did, and asked our citizens to cast their vote for me as vice president and to vote for Boris Nikolayevich as president to implement this program. If you read it thoroughly, you will see that this program was really essential for our society, for its transformation in a positive direction. As I understand it, and the way it really is in practice, reforms are the way to better things. We really could not go on living the way we were because economic relations in society had to be changed as a whole, the social sphere had to be improved, state construction had to be strengthened, and it was necessary to carry out legal reforms. I am continuing to advocate this program and have invented absolutely nothing new. I am advocating the program that was presented to the electorate before the elections.

"So, in this sense of course, there is a lot of work to do. The president, Boris Nikolayevich, empowered me, and my responsibilities envisaged the implementation of the powers the president invested in me. I treated these powers and instructions conscientiously and fulfilled everything that depended on me. I think neither the voters nor the president can fault me because I have been trained to be a conscientious, painstaking, and responsible person to the end.

"When the situation began to develop in quite the opposite direction, when the state Mafia apparatus began to form vigorously with its unprincipled and immoral attitude to economic reforms devoid of any priorities or foundation...[changes thought] You know it was simply difficult to agree with this and so I did everything that depended on me as a citizen and as vice president. I repeatedly made oral presentations to the president as well written ones to (?put it on record)—and there was a need to put it on record. There was practically no reaction.

"Back in December 1991 when there was talk about beginning the liberalization of prices, a wholesale liberalization, I categorically refused to participate in this process and disassociated myself from this plan. In December 1991, I had already clearly forecast and analyzed this entire situation. This article was published in February, although at first all the papers refused to publish it. Then PRAVDA was kind enough to publish it. It was an enormous article which appeared on 8 February 1992 in a double page insert. I already thought at the time, in February, that we were in a crisis situation. Just take a look: July, August, September, October, November, December—my article was published in December—January, and February...I already thought that we had a crisis on our hands then and I proved it theoretically and practically that we were already in a crisis.

"Nobody supported me at the time. Even the newspapers refused to publish my article. Active persecution began. I was deprived of all my committees and commissions that were subordinate to me, such as customs and defense of economic interests. Further, they blocked the establishment of the federal service for currency export controls, the surveillance [nadzornaya] service, and the taxation inspectorate. They were all taken away for some reason. Yet now everyone understands perfectly well that it was more profitable for them to simply plunder Russia, which they did, and to pilfer it. During 1992 alone, some $35 billion was taken out of Russia and for some reason this figure continues to grow every day. Not everything lends itself to audit [obshchet] and we are presently auditing the entire situation. The sum is enormous. We are begging the Group of Seven to give us $1.5 billion or $3 billion in assistance. Now can 35 billion be compared to 3 billion? Yet the 35 billion is ours, our hard-earned money for which no interest needs to be paid. All of this could have been used in the interests of both economic transformation and in the solution of social problems. Now we are receiving assistance in the form of credits which will have to be returned with interest. Who will return them, and how?

"Then take a look at what happened to the Soviet Union. After all, all those documents were prepared in secret. I found out about it after the treaty was signed in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Could I, a person who swore an oath to loyally serve the motherland when I was only 19 when I put on my soldier's shoulder boards for the first time, violate this oath? Of course not. Now take a look at the consequences: Millions dead and millions of refugees. Blood, destruction, disintegration of the economy, destruction of the Armed Forces. Look at the state of the Pacific Fleet, for instance. Can we agree with this? No. No, we cannot agree with this. I wanted only one thing and told Boris Nikolayevich repeatedly: Boris Nikolayevich, you have been lead into an impasse by your relationship with the people who surround you. You cannot trust them in such irresponsible fashion, without monitoring and checking up on things. As a result, this is what we have.

"It seems simply impossible now to find some form of compromise with the people surrounding the president because as you can see criminal proceedings have already been initiated in some cases. Not only have political and economic decisions been dishonest, but this extends into everyday relations as well, although this can hardly be called an everyday affair since the economic losses of the state have been colossal.

"This is what happened. Some say that my travels around the country are a preelection campaign, that I am supposedly trying to undermine the president. This is all unfounded fantasy. You even saw how the day before yesterday—I am not sure, I have stopped watching because the first and second programs [of central television] are about 70 percent lies, blatant lies— Mitkova [a Russian Television "Vesti" newscast announcer] declared that Rutskoy supposedly said that in two months he will become president and all the democrats will be jailed."

Asked by Lipus if he intends to run for president, Rutskoy says: "You know this kind of aim needs to be substantiated. At the present stage, I want only one thing, that we stop and take a look at what we have done. That is what I want. And I am trying to convince Boris Nikolayevich to do this. Now there are two ways out of this impasse today.

"The first is to carefully assess the situation, to finally get rid of the compromised people around you and revamp the government. Those who began these reforms and suffered a fiasco and bankruptcy should be kicked out of the government and sent off to do something else. This should have been done a long time ago. Create a normal government, normalize Boris Nikolayevich's relations with the legislative organs of power, the soviets of all levels, and ensure the transition of absolute power to the regions. Today, after the previous administration has been destroyed, it is practically impossible to administer the situation from the center. Turn over absolute power to local soviets and administrations and actively promote the process of economic reforms. We will not save this situation by politicizing society or by introducing new constitutions. The old Constitution is not an obstacle to economic, political, or legal reform. What is an obstacle is ambition and a lack of will to use power in the interests of the state and the people. After all, power is not given simply to rule. This is the first way.

"The second is to hold simultaneous elections of the parliament and the president. This is a more painful way and would take a longer time. But we have such a deficit of time today, that we simply do not even have a minute to warm up."

Asked about when he thinks elections of people's deputies will be held, Rutskoy says: "I repeat, the deputy corps cannot be reelected separately from the head of executive power. If we want stability in society then simultaneous elections must be won by one or another political structure. In the current situation, I represent the interests of the Civic Union and the Coalition of Centrist Forces. If, say, the Civic Union and the Coalition of Centrist Forces win the parliamentary presidential elections, then cataclysms of the sort that we are witnessing today with their [words indistinct] society of two, three, several directions, levels of society, and we will not get any positive results.

"This is because the main things today are set off against each other. Democracy is set of against patriotism, although these two concepts are simply indivisible. The very idea of democracy has been discredited by Democratic Russia, among others. That is why simultaneous elections are needed, political elections of both the head of state and the legislative organs of power. Then we will take the path of reform, the road to a better future. If we were to hold parliamentary elections first—and a law on the election of the parliament is needed to do this since the constitutional court has no right to adopt this kind of law—the newly elected parliament would once again be unsuitable for the president and his surroundings as before. Time has shown that it was the Congress that made the changes to the Constitution, which introduced the institution of president in Russia. Yet Boris Nikolayevich calls the Congress and the soviets since 1918 illegitimate. So what happens? If an illegitimate congress introduced an illegitimate change in the Constitution, then the question of the president's legitimacy arises."

Lipus asks Rutskoy if he thinks simultaneous early elections of representative power and the President are possible and how they would be carried out. Rutskoy says: "Yes, undoubtedly. The mechanism would be very simple. First of all, the fact is that both the Congress and Supreme Soviet would welcome this, since the deputies more closely understand the problem that is taking shape in our society. If Boris Nikolayevich were to propose the idea of simultaneous elections, I have no doubt that a law on elections of the parliament and the president would be adopted and these elections would be held. Now the reforms' basic aims and tasks could be determined later, reforms of society and the state, and a new Constitution could be adopted."

Lipus then says: "So you feel that the initiative should come from the president and that the deputies would support it?" Rutskoy answers: "Of course."

Lipus then repeats that the program is on the air live over TV and radio of "Teleradiokompaniya Vladivostok" and gives phone numbers for viewers and listeners. He says that the first question received concerns the situation in Tajikistan and why Russia again seems to be defending a foreign country.

Rutskoy says: "Well, look at it this way. First of all, we cannot say that it is a foreign country. I have absolutely no doubt that the Union will be restored, a new Union envisaging new political and economic relations. We are doomed—a harsh word I suppose—to live together, and so to say today that it is or is not our country is premature. We are all ours, and we cannot abandon

people in trouble, because a withdrawal from those frontiers would lead to a completely different course of events. I think this underlies the desire for us to leave.

"On the other hand, our boys would not be dying if our state, government, and president adopted completely different positions. First of all, those troops outside the Russian Federation should have a legal status. Second, if they were properly equipped, provided with fire and air support, and had the right to respond with adequate actions all this would not have happened. If the Afghan-Tajik border had air cover and powerful fire support this would simply not have occurred. If the state reacted to incidents in which our servicemen are killed with adequate actions against the other side, nobody would even desire to shoot in the air. Yet have a look at what is happening. The situation is like a snowball. It grows and grows and eventually you have the Tajik-Afghan crisis. This is no coincidence, because the whole world has seen how the Georgian bandit groups are firing at our military garrisons. The whole world can see how our servicemen and their families are being subjected to violence and killings. Yet the state's reaction boils down to either a Foreign Ministry note or the defense minister wags his finger: Tut, tut, we will punish you. However, nothing is actually being done.

"I am a military person and a politician and I know what I am talking about, because I had occasion to take part in normalization of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and in the Dniester conflict in Moldova. My position there was completely different to that of the Foreign Ministry and of the president. And I must tell you that we managed to subdue both the Ossetian and the Dniester conflicts and I must say that I proceeded from a firm position, a human rights position."

Lipus then asks Rutskoy what he thinks caused the Chechnya conflict. Rutskoy says: "Here too, if the state had ensured the legal, military, and technical support of its troops abroad and every soldier and officer knew that the state, and not a bowl of Jell-O, stood behind his back, then this would not have happened. We must not abandon these frontiers, because these frontiers will immediately be taken by somebody else, and what can we do with the thousands and hundreds of thousands of Russians who live there and are not in uniform? We already have millions of refugees on Russian territory. They are people who need housing, daily services, and family security. It is not as simple as it seems to some."

Lipus again asks about the situation in Chechnya, to which Rutskoy responds: "You may remember that I am still the target of attacks over the Chechnya situation. You may remember Karaulov who came up with some top secret papers and I asked him where he had obtained them. Today everything is for sale here, including military secrets and secret documents, anything you want.

"We have completely discredited ourselves, [words indistinct] to speculate with various documents. It was a secret document which we (?drew up). It was a document that was signed by the heads of law enforcement organs on the basis of a presidential edict. I have always maintained, and will maintain until the end of my life, that the law must be above all, whether one likes it or not. If not, then it should be changed by lawful means. But everyone is obliged to fulfill the law, including the president, the vice president, General Dudayev, and everyone else; Sidorov, Petrov, and Ivanov. If there is a law, [words indistinct].

"Now, by its nature, this document required fulfillment of the law. If measures had been taken to force the law's implementation, we would not have these grave consequences. The Chechen and Ingush people too would not have had to suffer such grave consequences."

Rutskoy then reads a question submitted by a viewer: "Why is the article on the status of servicemen, on their benefits for medical services, passes to sanatoriums, and so forth, not being fulfilled? I served for 30 years and have no benefits today." Rutskoy says: "Well, what can I say? You should address this question to Boris Nikolayevich. It is the same issue on which I have repeatedly reported to Boris Nikolayevich. What is the status of this issue? Well, you know that presidential edicts and instructions were issued repeatedly on social security and legal protection issues, but they are not being fulfilled. You may recall the 20 salaries to be paid to officers retiring from the Armed Forces, yet only five are being paid. In fact, even five salaries are a joke when wages have not been paid for three months. What benefits? Just take a look, open the book on medals—I have many of them—and read it. Nearly every medal involves some status, some benefits. If there are benefits, why are they not being fulfilled? Yet all (?of this) is called a state policy.

"Of course it is hard to read such notes. The situation needs to be corrected and the possibility to correct the situation exists. I have no doubt that the time will come when this will correspond with the law and there will no longer be any notes like this."

Rutskoy then reads another question asking what his future actions towards the Afghans [Afghanistan war veterans] will be? Rutskoy says: "Which Afghans? The ones with whom I served and fought? I think nobody can sever this friendship, this fraternal friendship, although various rumors are being disseminated that I have supposedly turned my back on the Afghans. How can I turn my back on them? As a matter of fact, the people who are spreading these rumors have no idea what war is and never had anything to do with it. Or maybe they were there as club managers, say. We have leaders like this in the Afghan movement.

"I have always regarded this fraternal group with honor, dignity, and respect; and I consider that this friendship cannot be violated. I lay in hospital with the troops and fed soldiers myself when I was able to move around in a wheelchair. So I make absolutely no difference between

soldiers, officers, ensigns, or generals. Everyone that I fought with in Afghanistan are my brothers. That is how I regard them."

Rutskoy then reads a note asking why he came to Vladivostok. Rutskoy says: "I have already said that the situation today requires an objective study of public opinion. The situation today indicates that regardless of the declarative programs that are put together and adopted without consideration of public opinion, without consideration of regional peculiarities of the Russia Federation's territory, this program will not work. So, as one of my aims I set myself this task, to study public opinion in practically every region of the Russian Federation. I think that by December I will manage to visit every territory and every subject of the Russian Federation to objectively approach the issues; to determine and assess the situation; and create an all-Russian national program for stabilizing the economy, the Russian Federation's internal and foreign policies, and create a program on the basis of this, a program of reforms, economic, legal, and state reforms. This is the basic aim of my visits."

Rutskoy reads a note which accuses him of "coming here to push communist ideas and to restore the entire former Soviet Union. If so, how would he do this? Rutskoy says: "Well, as far as the communist idea is concerned, I have already talked about this. I did not throw away my party ticket, as some did. I did not burn it at a meeting, as some also did. In contrast to those who threw them out or burned them, I did not use the benefits and privileges which they used. I was excluded from the party long before it became politically expedient to throw away party tickets. I have always thought and still think that those people acted unethically. I was excluded from the party for my statements, for my conviction that the party must reform itself along with society.

"As you know, I established the Free Russia People's Party after that and I am its president. It has nothing in common with what the Politburo and the CPSU Central Committee proposed at the time. It is a party which defends the position of the majority. So, nobody is appealing for a return to the past in which we lived, because society has assessed that past, and I must say that if the past was as wonderful [words indistinct] formation in terms of a change to new relations it was not. It is another matter how they are being implemented. I have already said that the democratic idea itself has been discredited. That is why I am not planning to renew anything.

"As far as interaction with the Socialist or Communist Parties is concerned, I think this can only be welcomed, because a policy of national concord is precisely a policy which is built on tolerance of one another, on cooperation with one another; because, in principal, our aims and tasks are the same even though our approaches may be different.

"So I am not renewing anything, and as far as cooperation is concerned, I intend to cooperate. As far as further movement and realization of the reforms is concerned, yes, I support them. I support the development of enterprise, but not speculation. I support the development of state construction and legal reforms, but not via the methods being used today. As far as the former Soviet Union is concerned, I think everyone understands that the system which we had has simply become obsolete and the reform of the Soviet Union was essential. Now you can see what is happening in Russia today. Attempts to curry favor with various subjects creates a situation in which the movement of various territories towards state and republic directions becomes defined. This is exacerbated even further by the economic and social problems which are being created in our society.

"So I am for a new Union because we are doomed to live together. We live in one geopolitical space. So I support the revival of new economic relations, political relations, and unified armed forces. So as far as a Union is concerned, I personally view it from these positions. So, nothing frightening will come from this and, as a matter of fact, the local wars that are raging around the periphery of the former Soviet Union will be stopped."

After reiterating that he is now a member of the people's party, Rutskoy reads a note asking how he can help fishermen receive regional supplies of fuel and what can he do to ensure that the moratorium on fishing in the Okhotsk Sea is observed. Lipus notes that these are extremely important regional issues, to which Rutskoy replies: "Yes, it is a very important issue. Now take fuel for instance. Quite recently, I was involved in a study of how fuels are produced, in what volumes, why the volume of extraction was falling, what the volume of processing was, and what we are getting as an end result, as well as the volume of consumption and exports. Now in this study, I was unable to find out what was happening to about 40 percent of this. The answer is very simple. It is simply being stolen. Now, taking into consideration the fact that the volume of extraction is falling while the volume of exports is increasing, it is obvious that exports are increasing at the expense of domestic consumption. If domestic consumption is decreasing, a deficit appears and prices go up. This results in irregularities in the supply of fuel to the fleet, particularly to the Navy which is supposed to defend Maritime Kray and coastal frontiers. So that is why foreign states are being so lawless and insolent in the Okhotsk Sea. The Okhotsk Sea is an internal sea. So how are they getting into it? This is no coincidence.

"So, as far as this question is concerned, when I was a member of the Russian Federation Security Council, we raised this issue repeatedly and Boris Nikolayevich promised that a decision would be adopted. Alas, no decision has yet been adopted. So as far as this question is concerned—I have already looked into it here and will work on it further tomorrow—I will be raising it in the

Supreme Soviet as part of the results of my visit. I think the Supreme Soviet will adopt a decision that will solve these two questions."

Rutskoy then reads a note asking about his attitude on the formation of independent republics and his forecast for Russia's immediate future. Rutskoy responds: "I have already said that much is being done with our own hands. The Soviet Union's disintegration, as it is called today, although I call it the Soviet Union's destruction, is not coincidental. Both the actions of our politicians and foreign politicians have brought about the Soviet Union's virtual destruction by our own hands. Today, the same thing is being done in relation to Russia.

"Literally the day before yesterday, I was at a plant in Komsomolsk-na-Amure where building berths on which nuclear and diesel powered submarines were built are being cut up. Who, why, and when were instructions of this sort given? You know a senseless conversion is under way. The working class is practically being destroyed because workers are being forced to leave these plants. In sum, conditions are accumulating which force territories into this, although they know their own technical, economic, resource, and raw materials potentials and they know that they are capable of providing for their own populations and can create living conditions which are commensurate with the needs of a modern civilization.

"This is why these movements calling for the establishment of republics have sprung up. Besides, they are being further encouraged by the constitutional conference at which the republics are being given special rights. Now oblasts and krays, which are tens or hundreds of times bigger than many of the republics that are in the Russian Federation, do not receive these rights which involve taxation, political, budget, and foreign economic issues. So once again we are hearing proposals about the formation of republics, and this is fraught with the danger of Russia ultimately facing the same prospects of disintegration as the Soviet Union. So that is what I feel about the future, and of course we must not permit this to happen, by any means. These issues must be solved on the principles of federalism in the political and state structure of the Russian Federation."

Rutskoy reads a note inquiring about Moscow Mayor Popov's private dacha. Rutskoy says a lot of work will need to be done "on all these main ideologues of democratic Russia" and that the process has begun. To a question about his well-known suitcases full of corruption allegations, Rutskoy says: "Everything is fine. You know that a few days ago there was a search at Poltoranin's residence. All the documents that were asked for were turned over by him, although the documents were requested two months ago. The Supreme Soviet has adopted a decision to give the procuracy the go-ahead to initiate criminal proceedings against Shumeyko. So the process has begun. I am not interfering in this, heaven forbid, although they are raising cases against me practically every day on TV or filing suit against me in court. So we must wait and see."

Rutskoy responds to a question on housing for Armed Forces members by noting that despite four presidential decisions on this issue, nothing is being done because of a lack of funds and the high cost of building materials. He does not propose any solutions. Lipus then asks him about his attitude toward the Supreme Soviet delay in adopting the Constitution and what he thinks about the constitutional process and the recent constitutional conference in general. Rutskoy says: "Well, let us look at the question of the Constitution in a responsible way too. You remember that Boris Nikolayevich was sworn in on the present Constitution. It is true that later he called it the Brezhnev Communist Constitution. So how could he lay his hand on it and swear on this Constitution, the state's basic law. If he did not swear on this Constitution, he would not have to recognize it? Can this happen? I do not think so.

"Quite recently after the first stage of the Constitutional conference, I wrote a fairly extensive article, 'One Step Forward, Two Steps Back,' in which I compared the Constitutional Conference statement, which Boris Nikolayevich read at the conclusion of the first stage, with the existing Constitution. I took paragraphs of the statement and Constitution articles, word for word. [words indistinct] A question arises: Why was it necessary to talk so much nonsense? There is a constitutional organ, a president of the Constitutional Commission, a president—not Khasbulatov or Rutskoy, but a president—there was a possibility of augmenting the Constitutional Commission, which is engaged in drawing up a new Constitution, with representatives of the subjects of the Federation. Why not, there were no objections. Augment it with [representatives of] public political movements, why not? None of this happened. No, a new organ had to be established to further stir up and politicize our already politicized society.

"Now let us take a look, what are this Constitution's aims? To eliminate and destroy one of the branches of power. This is obvious. I agree that the system of soviets, or the people's power system, is not perfect, because it [words indistinct] leading and guiding parties, yet we have [words indistinct] parties. We do not have a ruling and guiding (?party) today, so the soviets system is not quite suitable for the new economic and political climate in society. Therefore, the soviets need to be reformed. But this does not mean that they should be eliminated. And yet, when people of the rank of first deputy chairman of the government speak, one gets the impression that his mother literally nourished him on anti-Sovietism and anticommunism although he lived in this Soviet country himself, was a Soviet director, and lived in Soviet society. You cannot change your convictions twice a day, say. A modern politician must change the reality in which we live, not his political convictions.

"I really think that at 45 it is too late to change your convictions. They can change in an evolutionary way, but the evolutionary process is not a matter of seconds, like a cavalry attack, but a long process. The main task is to change reality, but reality must be changed in a way which is not destructive, but creative. Now this new Constitution is being drawn up for the next ruler. We always have this, we have been brought up with leaders in our blood. You remember Khrushchev, he (?amended) it, Brezhnev (?amended) it, Gorbachev (?amended) it, but we must get away from this leader thing, and the Constitution should not be written for a leader, it should be written for the state system. So, to write a constitution we must outline the basic aims and tasks of state construction, what we are planning to build. If we are talking about democracy, then the constitution should be democratic in nature. If we are talking about federalism and are rejecting a unitary state then lets give all the subjects equal political and economic rights. Lets give the necessary powers to responsible constitutional officials. Lets determine the degree of responsibility, since besides power their responsibilities should be determined. In other words, equal rights should be granted. All citizens, regardless of whether they are a political observer or the vice president. The law should specify that we have equal rights. However, my responsibility must be greater than yours, since you are a citizen, whereas I am in a somewhat higher hierarchy in the state's administration. If I am entrusted this position, I must bear responsibility for my decisions.

"Now take a look at what is in the draft constitution: The president names the Constitutional Court. Since he names it, he proposes it. He names the Supreme Court judge. Since he names him, he proposes him. The same goes for the prosecutor and the premier and he can disband the parliament. Enough. We cannot concentrate power in Russia in one individual. We have gone through all this. Surely we have not forgotten 1937? And there have been other ruling regimes. Basically, we have always had a monarchy, maybe not with a tsar, but with a general secretary and today a democratic president. So we cannot concentrate all power in one man. Today, when the Constitution is discussed and the mass propaganda and information means work to drive home practically the same invocations that we heard before the referendum—yes, yes, no, yes—the same thing is happening with the Constitution. This must not be allowed and we must not do this if you and I want to build a rule-of-law state. This must not be tolerated, but it is being foisted on us again, foisted on public opinion under the slogan of a Presidential Republic.

"Now wait a minute, let us sort things out. Yes, we need the institution of a presidency, particularly for such an enormous country. So let us determine the elements of state construction, what you and I want to build, and then draw up a constitution after studying public political opinion, when political observers, the president himself, and the government have both a moral and a legal right on the basis of public opinion to popularize various changes or various legal reforms. That is how it should be solved."

At 0928, Lipus concludes the program by thanking Rutskoy for finding time to take part in the "Local Time" TV program. Rutskoy reiterates his greetings on the occasion of Navy Day and wishes everyone optimism and all the best.

Floating Nuclear Power Plants Designed in St. Petersburg

LD1408100593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0857 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Krupenik]

[Text] St. Petersburg, August 14 (TASS)—Floating nuclear power plants may be very helpful in providing with cheap electricity and heat the populated localities in the extreme north, situated along the northern sea route, which connects the Kola peninsula in the west with Anadyr and Magadan in the Far East. They were designed by St. Petersburg engineers and scientists.

The design office, which was previously part of the military-industrial complex, has worked out technical proposals on floating nuclear power plants. Experts complain, however, that the lack of financing may become an obstacle for finishing the design and building the first floating nuclear power plant. At the same time, the Ministry of Fuel and Energy is one of the potential customers.

According to the authors of the design, it is planned to build floating nuclear power plants on turn-key terms, including the training of operators. With the capacity of 35 to 100 megawatts one nuclear power plant can supply with energy the villages with a total population of 100,000. The energy reserve of active zones of a nuclear reactor is big enough for ensuring the continuous work of the nuclear power plant for four years. The service live is tentatively estimated at 30 years.

The design is based on the principle of energy supply of nuclear-powered ice-breakers and ice-breaking supply ships, experts say. The reliability and safety of the floating nuclear power plants are guaranteed by the 30-year-long service life of nuclear-powered vessels in conditions of the extreme north.

Cossacks Demand Moscow Protection, Annexation of Lands

MK1408095593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 5

[Semen Ulyanich report: "Shumeyko Meets With the Cossacks. Terek Cossacks Urge Russia Be Carved Up Anew"]

[Text] Vladimir Shumeyko, Russian first deputy prime minister, received two Cossack delegations yesterday—

first from the Don, and later from the Terek. The Cossacks demand that the president's March edict on state support for the Cossacks be implemented.

Boris Yeltsin's edict on reform of Russian military structures in the North Caucasus region and state support for the Cossacks stipulated that the major ministries approve a list of Cossack units and set up departments for Cossacks' affairs at the ministries' staff. The president also tasked the Russian Government with drawing up a regulation on land relations with the Cossacks who serve in the armed forces and on the special procedure for the use of land in Cossack communities. The State Law Administration was to draft a charter of the Russian Cossacks. It was planned to set up an interdepartmental commission for Cossacks' affairs.

Six months have already passed since the edict was issued, but the Cossacks grumble that it still remains only on paper. In March, many people believed that the edict was prompted by the president's desire to win the Cossacks' votes at the April referendum. At the same time, the president's intention to restore the Cossacks' military glory has elicited a very negative reaction in the North Caucasus, in battles with whose peoples the Cossacks actually excelled.

The problem of the Cossacks' relationship with Caucasus peoples is one of the most complex ones for the Russian authorities. The conflict potential in relations between the Cossacks and the Caucasians is great owing to their tangled history, disparate cultures, and differences in views regarding Russia's future. The Cossacks are natural advocates of Russia's territorial integrity in the region. Nonetheless, sometimes the Cossacks take actions that run counter to the Constitution, provoke destabilization, and infringe on the interests of the non-Cossack population. This is why the presidential edict drew a negative reaction in the North Caucasus republics.

In order to mend matters, last April representatives of southern Russia's Cossacks and the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples signed an agreement in Pitsunda whereby the two sides renounced territorial claims on each other and pledged to resolve any conceivable misunderstandings through talks.

Musa Shanibov, confederation president, said in the wake of that meeting: "Those who are trying to unleash an all-Caucasus war did not sleep that night: they saw that not only did the confederation enter into contact with southern Russia's Cossacks, but it reached full agreement with them on all issues." Further developments have proved his words to be overly optimistic.

Several hundred Terek Cossacks blocked the North Caucasus railway last Saturday, demanding that the government take measures to protect the Slavic and Cossack populations in the North Caucasus. The Cossack Assembly [Krug] has emphasized that because of heightened ethnic tensions in the region, Slavic and Cossack people have been routinely assaulted, have been ousted from their original territories, Slavic and Cossack graves have been vandalized, and historical and cultural monuments destroyed. The Cossacks demand that Moscow protect the Slavs and the Cossacks and pass "legislation to restore historical justice—that is, annex the ancient Cossack areas: Kizlyar Rayon of Dagestan, Mozdok Rayon of North Ossetia, Prokhladnoye Rayon in Kabardino-Balkaria, and a number of others, to Stavropol Kray." The Terek Cossacks threatened that otherwise, they would protect the Slavs and Cossacks in the North Caucasus in their own way.

International Affairs

Ambassador to U.S., Talbott Discuss Economic Cooperation

LD1308142693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Oleh Bilorus, Ukrainian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United States, at the request of Ambassador at Large Strobe Talbott has met with him at the Department of State. Issues of further deepening Ukrainian-American relations in the political and economic spheres were at the center of a prolonged discussion.

Ambassador Talbott spoke highly of the recent visits to the United States by Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov and Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk, in the course of which significant success was achieved in bringing closer both countries' positions on nuclear disarmament and stepping up military and defense cooperation and partnership.

Oleh Bilorus drew Talbott's attention to problems that have arisen in Ukraine in the course of dismantling and deactivating the first batch of SS-19 strategic missiles. He emphasized that the process of dismantling missiles of this type would progress in Ukraine on a planned basis.

The American side expressed its readiness to provide Ukraine with financial and technological assistance in the near future to facilitate the process of nuclear disarmament.

A considerable part of the conversation at the Department of State was on issues of deepening economic cooperation between Ukraine and the United States and, in particular, on paying priority attention to putting together an economic assistance package for Ukraine to carry out structural and large-scale economic market reforms.

In the context of this, Oleh Bilorus put forward a plan for consideration by the American side for setting up in Kiev an American-Ukrainian center for reconstruction and economic development. In the opinion of the Ukrainian side, this nongovernmental establishment can become an important tool for developing and putting into practice blueprints of economic reforms in Ukraine, to encourage the activity of American business and to step up investment by American firms and corporations in the Ukrainian economy.

Deputy Foreign Minister, Diplomats Discuss Bosnia

LD1308185893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Mykola Makarevych, Ukraine's first deputy minister of foreign affairs, met today with the heads of UN Security Council members' diplomatic representations accredited in Ukraine. The foreign diplomats expressed their condolences over the recent casualties in the Ukrainian battalion of the UN peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia. Mykola Makarevych stressed Ukraine's concern over the dangerous developments around Bosnia-Herzegovina, which result from the attempt to use military force to resolve the conflict in the region, the information directorate of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported.

Official Expresses Opposition to Air Strikes

AU1308194493 Paris AFP in English 1936 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, Aug 13 (AFP)—Ukraine is opposed to NATO air strikes against Serb forces in Bosnia because it believes civilians and UN peacekeepers would be wounded or killed as a result, a senior official said Friday.

Such action would be "unconstructive" and could cause the conflict to spread, Volodymyr Furkalo, deputy chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's department for relations with the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), told AFP.

Air strikes have been threatened against the Serbs if they fail to honor a pledge to withdraw from two peaks overlooking Sarajevo.

Ukrainians are serving in the UN forces in Bosnia, and on Wednesday a mine explosion in the eastern Moslem enclave of Zepa killed one of them and wounded two others.

"UN soldiers in the Sarajevo region and the rest of Bosnia are hostages to the belligerant parties, and in the event of bombing they would be the first to fall target to acts of vengeance," Furkalo said.

Such intervention and the accompanying danger of "vengeance against UN soldiers" would "torpedo the principle of using" peacekeepers in a conflict zone, and could cause the conflict to spread "into other regions of the Balkans", he added.

UN Probe Into Attack on Peacekeepers Sought

LD1408164093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Ukraine's permanent representation at the United Nations has sent a telegram to the United Nations Secretary General and president of the Security Council, a letter [as heard] which says, in particular: During reconnaissance on 11 August in the Zepa security zone an armed personnel carrier of the Ukrainian battalion in the UN peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia was hit by an anti-personnel mine. Colonel Viktor Slyvnyy died and two other officers of the Ukrainian battalion, Major Petro Kovalchuk and Captain Serhiy Kulakov were wounded. Ukraine's permanent representation at the UN expresses its resentment at the crime

and demands measures be taken to stop hostile actions against the UN peacekeeping forces personnel, calling on the UN Secretary General to take relevant measures to investigate this incident and punish those responsible for this tragic event.

Cabinet Statement Defends Economic Union With Russia, Belarus

AU1508175193 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 12 Aug 93 p 2

[Undated "Statement by the Press Secretary of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers"]

[Text] Lately, quite often, deliberately or inadvertently, in speeches of some political figures and in the mass media, actions by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers have been represented in a false light and the position and intentions of Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma regarding the recent signing in Moscow by the heads of the Ukrainian, Russian, and Belarusian Governments of the statement on the intention to create an economic commonwealth have been misrepresented. Here, the age-old underhand machinations and the "telephone right" [decisions made by putting pressure upon officials through telephone calls] are resorted to. Particularly critical passions around this question flared up after the newspapers URYADOVYY KURYER and HOLOS UKRAYINY published one of the drafts of the "Agreement on the Creation of an Economic Union (Commonwealth)." This created grounds for holding, on 29 July 1993, a "roundtable" of political parties and public organizations where some of the participants in the discussion brutally slandered members of the Ukrainian Government and its head. Besides, the publication was not the initiative of the editorial boards or of the Cabinet of Ministers Press Service. Moreover, the published material was a badly formulated draft variant of the document, which is just a Russian Federation proposal. The published text had not been worked on by specialists and, the main thing, it had not been discussed at a Cabinet of Ministers meeting. It did not incorporate the numerous remarks, additions, or corrections without which the Ukrainian Government cannot accept the text of the agreement.

In view of the fact that problems of present economic ties and their effectiveness, as well as questions of economic integration are extremely important and truly strategic for the young Ukrainian state, some politicians and journalists are trying to use them in a biased or openly mendacious manner in their dirty political maneuvers. They depict the actions by the Ukrainian prime minister as his personal position, which contradicts Ukraine's general state policy and interests and is at variance with documents that have been signed by the president of our state.

In this connection, I have been authorized to state this:

1. The actions by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma that are aimed at intensifying mutual economic ties and economic integration constitute direct fulfillment of instructions of the Ukrainian Government that are contained in the declaration adopted by the heads of those states that are members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and in other documents that were signed on 14 May 1993 by presidents of the states, including Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. It was, in particular, written in these documents: **"To authorize heads of governments** of those states that are members of the Commonwealth to organize work on preparing corresponding draft documents...," and also "Heads of states that are participants in the commonwealth find it necessary for this purpose **to focus the efforts of their governmental structures and organs of the commonwealth on preparing, in the near future, corresponding documents and on making practical steps...."**

2. Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma repeatedly stated and reiterates now his position to the effect that he will never sign a document directed against the Ukrainian people's interests or a document that in any way defies the Ukrainian state's sovereignty.

However, the policy aimed at the restoration and further development of mutually advantageous economic ties objectively conforms to the interests of the young Ukrainian state and to the interests of every family and of every citizen of our country, no matter what politicians of various levels and denominations who often know nothing about the economy or true human needs would say.

Besides, and this must be stressed in principle, Leonid Kuchma only signed a statement by the heads of the governments, more specifically, the declaration on intentions—a document that has no legal consequences, does not need to be coordinated with the parliament, but only testifies to the orientation of the government's intention regarding the restoration of precisely economic ties. The draft documents—treaties and accords—are presently being further specified and supplemented taking into account ideas, positions, and points of view of representatives of all branches of power in Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus.

3. The discussion and also criticism of practical steps made by the Ukrainian Government, as also by governments of any country of the world, must be freely conducted by all political forces, parties, and citizens, but without misrepresentation or deliberate falsification. The press service of the Cabinet of Ministers will continue to react accordingly to all attempts at elucidating the policy of the government and the position of its head in a nonobjective or misleading manner.

[Signed] Dmytro Tabachnyk, press secretary of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers

Tripartite Negotiations Yield Customs Accord

LD1508162493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] An important result of negotiations was an agreement on single prices in the framework of a future customs union, including those for fuel and energy resources, said Leonid Minin, Ukraine's deputy minister of economy, in a press interview. He acted as the main expert on the Ukrainian side at the negotiations with his Russian and Belarussian counterparts in Moscow on the preparation of a draft agreement between the three states on furthering economic integration. However, Minin stressed, it is too early to celebrate a victory yet, as these agreements were reached so far only at the experts' level.

Parties' Roundtable Views Economic Union

MK1408090693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 3

[Vladimir Skachko report: "'Let Us Have a Baltic-Black Sea Economic Commonwealth!'"—"The 'Roundtable' Has Asked for a Break, But Not a Long One"]

[Text] The third stage of the "roundtable" of political parties and public movements of Ukraine, which took place the evening of 12 August, was, like the two previous ones (29 July and 5 August), devoted to discussion of a treaty on a CIS economic union. This "roundtable" has shown that the political crisis has affected not only the Ukrainian authorities. It has also hit other subjects of political life in Ukraine, namely political parties and social movements that for over three weeks have failed to work out a coherent alternative to the economic union either separately or in conjunction. Everything was limited to rhetorical proposals, some of which, however, are also worthy of attention.

The initiator of the "roundtable"—the Ukrainian Republican Party—prepared a draft final document entitled: "On the Directions of Ukraine's Economic Cooperation" for the session. The gist of this document is that Russia is trying to create in the vast CIS expanses a closed Eurasian economic space, and the first step toward that is the involvement of Ukraine and Belarus in the CIS economic union. Ukraine must on no account agree to this, given the centuries-long negative historical experience of integration with Russia. One of the republican leaders, Anatoliy Shybik, asked: "We must know for how many years it is proposed that we integrate more closely. Bohdan Khmelnytskyy did it for 300 years, the Bolsheviks for 70 years, and what is being proposed to us today? And will the Ukrainian state still exist after this economic union? Above all, we must answer these questions."

Instead of an answer, the republicans proposed that special attention be paid to the development of interstate cooperation and the conclusion of economic treaties with the post-communist countries of eastern Europe since, "in view of the big gap in the levels of economic development, close geographical location, and the availability of a developed infrastructure, we consider it expedient to start work on creating a Baltic-Black Sea economic commonwealth with the post-communist countries of Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and the Baltic states." The republicans propose that Ukraine integrate through this commonwealth with a united Europe.

Responding to reasonable and natural questions from the audience about the specific mechanisms for creating such a commonwealth and also about the impossibility of Ukraine today losing eastern and northern market access for its goods, Anatoliy Shebiko said that so far, his party is proposing not a model but only a line of economic cooperation for Ukraine, which must primarily seek economic benefits.

There were neither constructive supporters of this idea or serious opponents to it in the hall. Volodymyr Klymchuk, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said it would be a good idea to find out whether President Leonid Kravchuk has not revised his negative attitude toward new political parties, suggesting that he be invited to take part in the work of the "roundtable" in the hope that he could be persuaded to help the parties gain access to the mass media, obtain financial aid from the state budget, and obtain assistance in finding their own premises in Kiev.

Ukrainian Peasant Democrats' leader Serhiy Plachynda proposed a plan of first-priority measures through the end of this year which in his opinion could become an alternative to the economic union: refusing to sell the new grain harvest to Russia; closing the Ukrainian border as of 1 September this year; tighter customs controls; privatization during these months of 30 percent of state property; the introduction of the national currency, the grivna; and so forth.

Parliament Deputy Larysa Skoryk, in what has become a tradition, attacked the Leonid Kuchma government, suggesting that an alternative be sought not to the economic union but to the current Ukrainian cabinet of ministers. "We need a strong executive authority and the abolition of the representative branch in its present form," the deputy told parliament, and proposed that all power be concentrated in the hands of President Leonid Kravchuk. "It is inadmissible that Leonid Kravchuk should be responsible for everything and Leonid Kuchma can do whatever he likes," Larisa Skorik said in conclusion; she received no support, however.

Rukh Deputy Chairman Oleksandr Lavrynovych tactfully pointed out that "words unsubstantiated by concrete actions have passed the permissible limit." Deputy Ivan Drach, who presided over the meeting, agreed with him and announced an indefinite break in the work of the "roundtable."

This does not mean, however, that the Ukrainian opposition has no subjects for joint discussion. Strange as its might be, the Supreme Soviet took care of that by revising the question on the desirability of holding the

September referendum on confidence in the deputies and Leonid Kravchuk. Rukh immediately proposed to all political movements and forces concerned a meeting on 13 August to hammer out a joint opinion on this decision by parliament. Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil suggested the main directions for possible activity: "Having thwarted the referendum, the Supreme Soviet must now make a decision on early elections. If the deputies unduly delay this solution, the democratic opposition—the parties and trade unions—must press for elections by undertaking the most decisive measures."

Opposes Economic Union

AU1608095293 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 31 (112), Aug 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by NARODNA HAZETA unidentified special correspondent: "The 'Roundtable' of Political Parties: A Well-Weighed and Independent Economic Policy Must Counter Capitulation to Moscow"]

[Text] The second meeting of the "roundtable" of political parties was held on 5 August in the same hall of the Writers Union as on 29 July, but this time it did not attract as much journalistic attention. This is more a characteristic of the Ukrainian press than of Ukrainian politicians. Precisely at the time when the leaders of the main parties were overcoming that certain spontaneity of the preceding meeting and were embarking upon a better organized, more orderly, and constructive exchange of opinion, the journalists may have become bored: If there is no rough and tumble, what is there to write about?

This second meeting was interesting precisely because it gave food for serious reflection on the prospects and avenues for the development of the Ukrainian state. The theme was the same: What does the tripartite "Slavic" agreement on the economic union of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus that was signed by [Prime Minister] L. Kuchma promise or threaten Ukraine? With the exception of the representative of the Cadets Party, all the other politicians arrived at the conclusion that yet another prime minister has on yet another occasion capitulated to Moscow's pressure upon Ukraine to return it to the status of a Russian colony.

The representatives of the parties analyzed the statement by the three premiers that was signed by L. Kuchma and tried to prove that, in accordance with the most thorough expert analyses, no economic advantages for Ukraine are contained in this document. Moreover, the tripartite statement does not even have any economic significance. It is a purely political action continuing Gorbachev's Novo-Ogarevo efforts and then those of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. In general, it puts into effect Solzhenitsyn's scheme for "the advancement [obustroystvo] of Russia."

This may be the last attempt "peacefully" to eliminate the Ukrainian state without applying the Russian methods for conquering Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, or Tajikistan—that is to say, provoking a bloody conflict with a subsequent "peacekeeping" military intervention. A. Shybik (URP) [Ukrainian Republican Party], V. Zhuravskyy (KhDPU) [Ukrainian Christian Democratic Party], S. Plachynda (SDPU) [Ukrainian Social Democratic Party], representatives of "New Ukraine," the Ukrainian Democratic Party, the Liberal Democratic Party, the Kiev Brotherhood of the UPA (Ukrainian Nationalist Assembly], the Social Democratic Party [as published], the NRU [Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroyka] and the VRU [Ukraine's National Rukh], the "The Crimea Within Ukraine" Committee, and other politicians advanced convincing arguments to justify their negative attitude toward L. Kuchma's maneuver. The majority of the parties see the main reason for such a step by the premier in the government's incompetence, in its state-building impotence (and partly also an unwillingness to establish Ukraine's independence), in the old habits of the colonial administration (its representatives still continue to maintain power) of obeying Moscow and simply of carrying out decisions by the center without making any independent decisions.

Serious journalists and analysts got an opportunity to assess these arguments, because the talk about the economic union did not finish at the "roundtable." It was decided to continue the discussion of the situation with the most extensive participation of scientists and specialists.

The practically unanimous support by the parties for regular meetings of the "roundtable" in the future may be regarded as fundamentally important. It was decided that each meeting will be prepared by a working group of a different party—for example, the next meeting will be organized by the Ukrainian Democratic Party (the two previous ones were organized by the Ukrainian Republican Party). The themes of each meeting will be specified well in advance. The fact that Ivan Drach was elected as permanent speaker of the "roundtable" points to the serious character of the intention to hold interparty consultations on a systematic basis.

Kebich Vacations in Crimea, Promises Food for Black Sea Fleet

WS1208144693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] According to RID, Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, vacationing in Crimea, met with Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet to discuss Black Sea Fleet issues and ways of overcoming the economic deadlock. According to KHARKOV NAVINY, Vyacheslav Kebich conveyed Belarusia's willingness to organize food deliveries for the Black Sea Fleet.

German Defense Minister To Meet Morozov, Zlenko

LD1608060893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0556 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[Text] Bonn August 16 TASS—German Defence Minister Volker Ruhe today sets off on a two-day visit to Ukraine. In Kiev he will hold talks with his Ukrainian opposite number Kostyantyn Morozov and Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and meet other Ukrainian officials. The German minister is expected to visit one of the air defence units of the republic.

The German minister will raise the question of the ratification of the strategic arms reduction treaty by Ukrainian parliament.

From Kiev Ruhe will proceed for a three-day visit to Kazakhstan where he is expected to hold consultations on security in Eastern Europe and the Central Asian region and visit a unit of the armed forces of Kazakhstan.

Commerce, Industry Group Set Up To Boost Romanian Ties

AU1608112193 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Moment": "A Romanian-Ukrainian Chamber Has Been Created"]

[Text] The Romanian-Ukrainian Commercial and Industrial Chamber—a nongovernmental and apolitical body—is expected to renew economic ties between Romania and Ukraine, ties that, after the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance [CEMA] ceased to exist, became much less extensive. Its constituent meeting was recently held in Bucharest. Nicolae Dragoiu-Dragoman has become chairman of the chamber. He is also the senior general director of the well- known Bucharest firm "Aris Corporation SA." The chamber was founded by 24 firms using private and state capital and by businessmen.

Delegation Signs Cultural Cooperation Agreement With China

LD1308150793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Commenting on his visit to mainland China, Ukrainian Minister for Culture Ivan Dzyuba said the delegation he headed had been invited by the Chinese Culture Ministry to discuss plans and programs for the two countries' cultural cooperation. [passage omitted] Next year a Chinese delegation is expected to pay a return visit with Crimea (?set as its) specific objective. While in Beijing the delegation signed an agreement on cultural cooperation covering the 1994-1995 period. The agreement provides for cultural exchanges and contacts including a vast concert exchange program. [passage omitted]

New Sea Route to Israel Opens

AU1508180693 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "A New Sea Route Has Been Opened"]

[Text] The Azov Sea Steamship Company has opened a new sea route between Mariupol and Haifa [Israel]. The Israeli firm "Konmart" has become a business partner of the Ukrainian sailors. The motor ship "Serhiy Smyrnov" has sailed for its first cruise along the new route.

National Affairs

Kuchma Addresses Banking Council on Inflation, Currency

LD1308172793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1910 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The first sitting of the Council for Issues of Banking Activity under the Ukrainian Council of Ministers took place on 13 August [date as heard]. Three issues were examined at the sitting: the interaction of the government and commercial banks, problems in developing commercial banks, and the elaboration of a preliminary program of interaction between banks and the government. Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma spoke on the first issue, saying in particular:

[Begin Kuchma recording] Due to a number of reasons, both external and internal, we are not managing to consistently carry out (?open market reforms). One should recognize the fact that the government's adoption of many decisions has a forced nature and that there was an operational reaction to the development of the crisis situation in our economy. The dual nature of these decisions gave critics of the government cause to accuse us of conducting an antibanking policy and gave encouragement to a propagandist antibanking campaign and so on.

I am deeply convinced that (?strong banks) are the basis of a healthy economy, and they should be independent of the government. But the very independence of banks, the necessity of defending them from the administrative (?plow), demands a clear realignment of banking activity by legislation. It is not a secret that legislation today is flawed; its shortcomings in a number of cases have the effect of creating a contradiction between, for example, the economic interests of enterprises and banks. Our banking legislation does not take into account the development of the economy under conditions of inflation. Inflation is a means of redistributing funds. The population loses by inflation, and so do enterprises, but

someone does win. I maintain that legislation which allows profit to be made from inflation is flawed and should be reviewed.

In the end, to prevent the redistribution of funds as a result of inflation, inflation needs to be stopped. This should be done by the government, together with you, by drawing banks into work connected with improving legislation, into preparations for carrying out banking reform, into the elaboration of economic policy coordinated with the government and banks. In this I see the (?sense) of setting up (?the council).

Ukraine is currently in a difficult financial state, which you understand well. The state is not capable of paying off its internal and external debts. The majority of Ukrainian enterprises do not have funds to pay for the delivery of imported energy carriers, raw materials, and (?components). Because of excessively high prices, Ukraine's population is not even able to buy the consumer goods that we still have on the internal market. This volume is continuously decreasing, unfortunately.

On the whole, the effect of external factors is of primary importance to the economy. First among these is the transition to settlements at world prices in respect to energy carriers and raw materials. We are receiving oil from Russia at a price of $80 per tonne and gas at $43 per 1,000 cubic meters. Energy carrier prices will have equaled world prices by the end of the year, reaching $100 and $80 for oil and gas, respectively. The head of government and the Russian president confirmed this again yesterday.

It follows from this that, for example, prices for oil refining products will go far beyond the boundaries of world prices. Simply, a universally known fact is evident here: The effectiveness of the majority of industries in the Ukrainian economy is a far cry from those in the world economy. Thus, the main cause of our financial crisis is the technical and technological backwardness of our economy.

At present, the government is also carrying out work on improving currency legislation. For example, in my opinion, it was an obviously erroneous practice to determine the currency exchange rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets according to results of the tenders at such a limited currency market as a currency exchange. A floating currency exchange rate provides for a possibility to convert the national currency. However, convertible currency is, first and foremost, a reflection of a convertible commodity only, i.e. its competitive power at the world level. Noncompetitive commodities can only be sold at the world market for underestimated prices. This refers to a noncompetitive currency as well.

[Word indistinct] the exchange rate will be sharply underestimated, and not only this. This is what happened to our karbovanets. Ukraine suffered and continues till this time to suffer huge losses. This is why the Government of Ukraine is preparing an appeal to the Supreme Council, proposals on revising the currency legislation. It is proposed that temporary rules of currency regulation be introduced for the time of the preparation and adoption of the new legislation, including the setting of a fixed official exchange rate of the karbovanets in relation to foreign currencies proceeding from calculations, parities, the purchasing capacity of the currency, and the state of our balance of payments.

Thus we expect to prevent fluctuations in the exchange rate under the influence of purely commercial or speculative factors, which would be ruinous for our economy. The official exchange rate of the karbovanets, apart from serving accounting tasks, will also serve to buy out or sell that part of currency earnings which, according to the legislation currently in force, is subject to be sold by the exporter on a compulsory basis. Today this is 50 percent. As you understand, this is a forced measure caused by the state of our balance of payments.

Data on Ukraine's balance of payments for 1993 shows that the negative balance of trade transactions can leap to an astronomical 11.8 trillion karbovantsi. Our debt to Russia alone for oil and gas deliveries has by now already exceeded 850 billion rubles. This is for oil and gas alone. So now the government has to search for sources to pay for the crucial import.

At the same time, we understand that the currency (?exchange) rate and the market need to be developed. The portion of currency earnings that is not subject to mandatory sale will (?be sold) freely and at a market rate. We think that this decision will create conditions for foreign investment to become more widespread. We are prepared, together with the national bank, to initiate a widening of the free currency market by providing access to the currency market for legal entities (?on a residential basis).

The following should conclude everything that has been said: The Ukrainian Council of Ministers's decree on currency regulation and currency control needs to be substantially revised. The position of the government and the national bank has lately been on the decrease in issues of credit and monetary policy-making. (?Today) both the government and the national bank realize full well that inflation needs to be fought and that a tough monetary and credit policy is the most effective means of fighting it. So interest rates applied to the national bank's centralized credit should become positive in the future. It follows from this that given the current rate of inflation, they must gradually increase.

We think that the notion of low interest credits to support priority industries should be altogether excluded from the vocabulary of the national bank.

Our national bank will only become a real central bank when it has only one priority in the economy: ensuring the stability of the national monetary system. Something has already been achieved in this direction. In connection with the recent decree of the president of Ukraine, the national bank will not be able to grant credits at rates

lower than the officially established rates of refund. Determining priorities and support for priority areas becomes the exclusive right of the government.

It is clear that we cannot leave rural areas without financial support today, or other vitally important areas for which credit rates seem too high. However, reduced credits in this case should be implemented at the expense of the budget and not at the expense of the national bank giving credit with low interest rates. So we are against unlimited and interest-free multitrillion credit lines, no matter what good intentions lead to the opening of these lines. The procedure introduced for (?converting) the national bank's profit to the state budget of Ukraine will extend the financial possibilities of the budget to render support for priority areas.

An important anti-inflationary measure is the introduction of a procedure for the fulfillment of Ukraine's state budget in cash terms, which has been introduced by presidential decree.

Our financial and credit system is gradually being reformed. Conditions are being created to establish proper control over the sphere of monetary circulation and to limit inflation.

Sometimes the government, when making recommendations on issues of monetary and credit policy, is accused of interfering in the competence of the national bank and of trying to replace it. This is not so. If we sometimes criticize the policy of the national bank, it is only to help it to become a real central bank and to free it from implementing (?functions) that are not appropriate for a central bank.

The government also proceeds from the position that the policy of the national bank, notwithstanding its independence, should coincide with the government's economic policy. It should at least assist in implementing this policy. Here one should feel a great responsibility because without unity in the policies of the government and the national bank, economic reforms are doomed to failure, however good the programs for our reforms might be.

Now I will comment briefly on preparations for the monetary reform. Not only as a prime minister but also as the chairman of the State Commission on Monetary Reform, I declare that we are not going to carry out a confiscatory monetary reform. Strictly speaking, the introduction of the hryvnya is not a monetary reform. Its aim is to create—I underline this—to create the first national monetary system, but not to carry out any confiscatory measures. I think what I have said proves that the government is busy ensuring conditions for the stabilization of the hryvnya after it is put into circulation, but not preparing any confiscation of population's monetary means. Of course, from the point of view of the money exchange technique, it would be better for the population to keep their savings in bank accounts. It should not necessarily be a savings bank. It can be any commercial bank as well. We guarantee automatic, nonconfiscatory conversion of this money in hryvnya, regardless of the sum of individual deposits. [end recording]

Commission Chairman Urges Emergency Economic Measures

MK1308115893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 3

[Vladimir Skachko report under "Ukraine" rubric: "The Hryvnya Cannot Be Introduced, But an Economic Emergency State Must Be—Kiev Authorities Seek To Shift Responsibility Onto Each Other"]

[Text] On 11 August in Kiev, breaking the summer calm, the Supreme Council's standing deputies Commission on Planning, Budgets, Finances, and Prices made what is actually the first report on its performance over three years. Its chairman, Andrey Pecherov, a member of the parliament presidium, met with journalists, and everything he said an hour prior to the meeting only confirmed that on the eve of a political crisis in the fall, provoked by the possible cancellation of the September referendum on confidence in the president and parliament, turmoil in the upper reaches of Ukrainian authority continues, with all branches of government seeking to shift responsibility for the country's economic plight onto each other. A memorandum on the commission's performance distributed before the press conference says that it has drafted 35 Ukrainian laws bearing on economic matters—pricing, tax and finances, and the credit system and banking. This constitutes 13 percent of the overall number of economic laws adopted.

Andrey Pecherov described the current situation in Ukraine, however, as follows: "Where there is a crisis, there is a catastrophe." According to him, the latter differs from the former in that in conducting an economic policy on any matter, not only mistakes are being made but the whole reorganization of the economy is based on erroneous, unfeasible, and hazardous concepts by the current Cabinet of Ministers and part of the deputy corps supporting the government. By way of example, Andrey Pecherov cited the conduct of privatization in Ukraine which, in his opinion, proceeds from a false concept discarded even in Western countries. "There, the majority of countries undertaking privatization make employees co-owners of property, whereas in this country one owner—the state—is replaced by another. Therefore contradictions between the worker and the owner remain," he said, describing as a "fairy tale" the intention to cover up the true aims of the ongoing privatization with the distribution of privatization checks or certificates. According to him, in 1990, Ukraine's property was evaluated at $400 billion and if that is multiplied by the current rate of the coupon-karbovanets to the dollar and then divided by the 52 million of the population, the share of each citizen would amount to millions and not thousands, as is proposed in the course of property distribution in the form of checks.

Another conclusion made by Andrey Pecherov is that at present, there are no conditions in Ukraine for the introduction of its own currency—the hryvnya. According to him, the hryvnya has already been printed and brought to Ukraine, but the country has no stabilization fund, which should constitute at least 40 percent of the cash circulation; without it, if the national currency is introduced under pressure from political forces, it will follow the fate of the former karbovanets-coupon. The blame for the inability to pursue an anti-inflation policy was again placed on the Ukrainian National Bank and the Government.

In order to overcome the crisis, Andrey Pecherov believes, Ukraine must introduce an economic state of emergency. The main components of such a state, according to Pecherov, are full state control over cash and non-cash circulation, a state monopoly of foreign economic ties and wealth extracted from the heart of Ukraine, and the rationing of part of the foodstuffs. Another aim of the state of emergency, according to the commission chairman, should be day-to-day management of the situation in the country, basically designed to curb violations of laws in all forms—"from economics to the right of each citizen to free movement and privacy in his own apartment."

It should be noted that the idea of an economic state of emergency has repeatedly been suggested by Ukrainian statesmen, including President Leonid Kravchuk, but the deputies themselves abandoned it. It is quite likely that in the conditions of the ongoing and deepening crisis, it could be brought back as the sole salvation.

A state of emergency in the economy, according to Pecherov, would allow making effective use of revenues from the export of natural resources whose value is annually estimated at $28 billion; and also to create the requisite stabilization fund to introduce the national currency and equalize the trade balance with Russia, which is now 2.8 trillion Russian rubles in favor of Russia. Pecherov said that yet another task of the emergency situation would be to hold down price rises—according to his projections, with the current government a new jump in prices for agricultural products should be expected this fall.

Concerning relations with Russia and the creation of an economic union of the CIS countries, Andrey Pecherov said that Ukraine must not isolate itself since that would mean its self-destruction. Ukraine should cleverly "pursue economic restructuring and continue integrating its links with the former Soviet Republics." Otherwise, without resolute economic measures, Pecherov believes, a catastrophe would await Ukraine. "If the state is built only on the basis of economic slogans, then we shall be reckoned with until we have dismantled the last warheads," Pecherov said, stressing that this was his personal opinion, which should not necessarily be presented in the press. Unfortunately, many have been favoring this opinion recently and this could be why Ukraine is in no particular hurry to ratify the START I Treaty.

Poll Reveals 37 Percent Support Privatization

LD1608091993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] About 37 percent of Ukraine's residents support the government's policy aimed at the development of private enterprise, and 26 percent are against. These figures were received in a poll conducted by Ukraine's Institute of Sociology. At the same time, experts observe that citizens of our state are concerned that post-socialist businessmen may not be able to act in the interests of an independent Ukrainian state and the Ukrainian people.

Chernobyl Aftermath Reportedly Causes 32,000 Deaths

LD1408185993 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1420 GMT 14 Aug 93

["Tragic Echo of Chernobyl"—UNIAR headline]

[Text] Kiev, 14 Aug—According to data provided by the Power Engineering Commission [Energetychna Komisiya] of the Ukrainian ecological association "Green World", 32,000 people died last year from among those who suffered from the Chernobyl disaster aftereffects. A total of 604 were children and 1,030 were those who took part in the elimination of the Chernobyl aftermath.

Durdynets Comments on Nuclear Disarmament

WS1308114493 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] No one should have doubts about Ukraine's resolve to follow the path of nuclear disarmament. At present, the Supreme Council is examining the ratification of the START and nuclear nonproliferation treaties. This was declared by Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, in an interview published in HOLOS UKRAYINY on 13 August. He noted that $3 billion is required for the destruction of nuclear weapons stationed on the Ukrainian territory. Nuclear disarmament, emphasized Vasyl Durdynets, can totally ruin our state economically. The deputy legislative speaker stressed that Ukraine should receive security guarantees from nuclear countries in the form of an agreement or treaty.

Defense Ministry Debates Future of Strategic Bombers

LD1308212793 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev [dateline as received]—According to a directive from Ukrainian Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov, all the main directorates of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the general headquarters are holding an inquiry on whether to keep 19 TU-160 and 22 TU-95 strategic bombers currently based at the airfields

of Priluki and Uzin. It is believed that the high command will approve a decision to keep the TU-95 aircraft, as they are more reliable. The TU-160 planes will most likely be recycled.

Parties Have Different Views on Referendum

LD1408183293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Now, on the referendum. Will it take place or not? Today no one can answer this question. Whether it is needed at all. There are different opinions on that score. Here is one of these: For Ukraine the referendum today is the road to nowhere and it is disadvantageous to our state for many reasons. This was stated by the Green Party Chairman Vitaliy Kononov at a news conference in Kiev. In his opinion the way out of this situation is the convocation of a Constitutional Assembly. The leader of the Greens said work toward that end was already under way. A number of parties are drafting a relevant document that they intend to make public in the near future.

Some politicians in Donetsk oblast abide by a different opinion. However, their attempt to set up initiative groups for the collection of signatures for the preterm termination of the plenary powers of the president, and the abolition of the post of president as such ended in failure. In compliance with the law on the all-Ukrainian referendum at least 200 people are to be assembled and registered with their passports so as to set up such groups. Meanwhile, only 47 people were in the hall at the moment the meeting was opened. This action was organized by the representatives of the Civic Congress of Ukraine, the Party of Slavic Unity, the Communist Labor Party of Ukraine, the Communist Bolsheviks of Ukraine, the Movement for the Revival of Donbass, and the International Movement of Donbass.

Parliamentary Commission Probes Situation in Transcarpathia

AU1308154193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Aug 93 p 3

[Interview with Oleksandr Hryhorovych Tarasenko, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security, by Mykola Horvat; place and date not given: "A Good Neighbor Is Better Than a Relative. However, It Is Necessary To Know What He Wants"]

[Text] A group of members of the Supreme Council Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security spent a few days in Transcarpathia. The delegation was headed by Oleksandr Tarasenko, deputy chairman of the commission. The parliamentarians checked how the Security Service, border guards, and customs officers fulfilled the current legislation in the region and what problems needed to be resolved in the near future to improve the work of these state institutions. Before leaving, Oleksandr Hryhorovych shared his ideas on the initial results of the visit with me.

[Tarasenko] I will say right away that there are still many problems today in the activity of these structures. In addition to fulfilling the specific task given to us by the leadership of the Supreme Council, we also familiarized ourselves with the sociopolitical situation in the region. From our point of view, Transcarpathia presently lives a normal and regular life, overcoming the crisis situation in which it has found itself. We have noticed that, these days, the majority of the population in the region is mainly occupied with work and does not even know what is going on in the upper echelons of power....

[Horvat] Is it good or bad?

[Tarasenko] I think that, to a certain extent, it is good, but, possibly, to the same extent, also bad. However, if you ask them what they want, the answer, as a rule, is this: "Give us a chance to live a normal life. There is enough politicizing. It is high time we got down to improving the economic situation."

[Horvat] I would like to know about your personal attitude toward the project of a free economic zone in Transcarpathia.

[Tarasenko] I believe that there are no special problems here. It is only necessary to analyze and forecast consequences because the question itself may be resolved fast, but we must know what our neighbors—the same Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia, Poland, and so on—want from this and also what we expect from it. Under the aforementioned motto, one may also get into trouble. It is worthwhile studying the experience of those regions where there already exist free economic zones. If positive factors in Transcarpathia prevail over negative ones, we must create a free economic zone. It is desirable for all the interested sides to sit down at a "roundtable." If it is advantageous for Transcarpathia and Ukraine in general, then we must adopt a corresponding decision.

[Horvat] Let us once again return to the work of the special services that you have inspected. What measures are, after all, necessary to make their work more efficient?

[Tarasenko] We visited several border checkpoints and studied in detail the work of the services there. As I already mentioned, there are more than enough problems. They are being resolved not so much in a legislative manner as at an interstate level with neighbors. Serious capital investments are also necessary in order to create suitable working conditions for officers in the aforementioned structures. I am referring to, first and foremost, the equipment of border checkpoints and their provision with up-to-date technical facilities, and so on. As a result, our relations with the neighbors, as well as other things, will improve as a result. It is also a kind of manifestation of our cultural level. Moreover, proper work of border checkpoints is yet another item for supplementing our budget.

For many Western states, Ukraine has become a transit country. More than 70 percent of cargo crossing the

Ukrainian border is on its way to Russia and farther on. What do we get from this? It is necessary to study the problem deeper and resolve the question. The members of the group will analyze in detail the shortcomings that have been revealed and will submit specific proposals for their efficient elimination.

Belarus

Russian Gas Cut-Off Prompts 'Emergency Restrictions'

LD1408093293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Emergency restrictions on consumption of gas have been introduced in Belarus. This is due to a decision of the Russian Gazprom association to cut off the supply of gas to the Republic of Belarus at 1200 on 15 August because the latter has failed to settle its debt of 100 billion rubles. In accordance with the emergency cut-off schedule, supply of gas to industrial sites will be stopped first; next come agricultural enterprises. The last on the list are enterprises with nonstop production processes. As for gas supplies to people's flats, the government intends to do all it can to avoid switching off the networks. An intensive search for a solution to this situation is under way. According to the information obtained by a RIA correspondent, the government of Belarus has finally managed to find part of the funds, 20 billion rubles, which will be transferred to the bank account of the Russian Gazprom as a matter of urgency.

Officials Evaluate Government Economic Policy, Direction

WS1608102393 Minsk BELORUSSKAYA NIVA in Russian 4 Aug 93 p 4

[Interview with Anatoliy Dremov, head of the Economic Management Department of the Belarusian Council of Ministers, Department of Prices Director Vladimir Mikhasev, and Aleksandr Kozyol, deputy chairman of the Belarusian State Committee for Labor and Social Protection by an unidentified BELINFORM reporter; place and date not given: "The Government Is Not a Generous Uncle"]

[Text] **Under hyperinflation and the current production slump, it is not easy for the Republic's government to cope with economic difficulties and provide social protection for all citizens. However, it is the government's responsibility to lead the nation from this crisis, which is not met with delight by everybody.**

Reproaches brought upon current policy should be evaluated from different points of view, those of all citizens and even entire social groups, political parties, trade unions, and their leaders. How does the government itself appraise its activities?

We will find this out in an interview with Anatoliy Dremov, head of the Economic Management Department of the Council of Ministers, Department of Prices Director Vladimir Mikhasev, and Aleksandr Kozyol, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Labor and Social Protection.

[Reporter] Is it possible for the Republic to free itself from the present extremely complicated economic situation?

[Dremov] Actually, the government does not have an easy life under hyperinflation, nevertheless, stabilization is possible. However, only on the condition of closer cooperation with Russia. Everyone, I believe, knows quite well that we receive 90 percent of our energy sources from Russia. Unfortunately, the situation over there is not looking all too good these days

We set all our hopes on cooperation with international financial organizations. They basically have approved the reform policy being endorsed by the government. The IMF recently granted the Republic $70 million in compensatory credits, and an additional 100 million is being negotiated. This will allow us to apply appropriate measures which will considerably neutralize negative forces in the economy.

[Kozyol] As is well known, there has been a tripartite agreement signed among the government; the Confederation of Industrialists, Entrepreneurs, and Leaseholders; and trade unions, which provides for the resolution of conflicts at the negotiating table, and moreover, for reasonable argumentation delivered by a permanent commission comprising representatives of the all three sides. Unfortunately, the latest meetings following the conclusion of the tripartite agreement, have been emotional and even, you will excuse me for saying this, egoistical and opportunistic.

[Reporter] How was it articulated in practice?

[Dremov] For example, the industrialist's demand for enterprise tax allowances. Fine, but not for everyone. The government cannot, and does not want to reduce taxes for the enterprises that care little about the stabilization of their own economy and the development of production, while spending away their incomes. Analogous grievances can be brought against the trade unions. In pursuit of political capital, they sometimes do not bother to methodically calculate minimum wages. After all, scientific methodology is not a government fantasy.

According to the State Committee for Statistics, for example, in the first six months of this year, in comparison with the corresponding period last year, retail prices and tariffs on services rose nine times, while person incomes increased 10.4 times. It means that for every percent of price increases there was a 1.6-percent increase in personal income (1.02-percent increase in wages), which meets the demands of the agreement. It reads that: "The difference between consumer price increases and personal wage increases should not exceed 25-30 percent." So even in this specific case, we cannot agree with the Federation of Trade Unions, which believes that the minimum wage should equal 70 percent of the minimum consumption budget. You must also take into account the fact that the budget does not include allocations for price differences resulting from increased costs for imported energy sources and grain.

[Mikhasev] The government considers further tripartite meetings necessary, but only after existing controversies are resolved. It is also working on completion of tax legislation. Recently, the Ministry of Finance along with the State Committee for Industry and Interbranch Production, as well as other interested ministries and departments, has been asked to analyze the influence of the taxation system on enterprises' social and economic development, based on results from the first six months of the year, and to present the Cabinet of Ministers with adequate proposals for the Supreme Soviet. This is yet another step being taken by the government to respond to requests by the Confederation of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs within the framework of the tripartite agreement.

Procommunist Union Proposes Confederation With Russia

WS1308111693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Today, the Coordinating Committee of the Popular Movement of Belarus [PMB] called for the creation of a Belarusian-Russian confederation. The PMB unites 18 parties, movements, and associations that advocate a procommunist ideology. Currently, it is the most influential political force in Belarus. In the opinion of the PMB Coordinating Committee, the plans for the creation of the economic union of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine are illusory: First, Ukraine is incapable of pursuing resolute measures because of its contradictory political situation and, second, the economic union does not respond to the current needs. Belarus can come up with an initiative to create the confederation, which is the only way of overcoming the economic deadlock. Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and other erstwhile USSR republics could join the confederation later.

Moldova

Snegur Interviewed on Relations With Romania, Russia

AU1308154493 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 13 Aug 93 p 12

["Excerpts" from interview with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur by Laszlo Botos published in EXPRESS weekly in Bucharest; place and date not given: "People and Nation in Chisinau"]

[Text] The Romanian-language weekly EXPRESS published in Bucharest carried a lengthy interview with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur. We now publish excerpts from this interview.

[Botos] Mr Snegur! One often hears of the concept of integration in the policy of both Bucharest and Chisinau. In your view, what is integration and what would be its final results?

[Snegur] In my opinion, integration has two main aspects: spiritual and cultural integration on the one hand, and economic integration on the other hand. Regarding the former, I think we can already see the results and, in fact, this is how it should be: spirit, culture, education, and intelligence should not have borders.

[Botos] Should we understand this in a way that the disappearance of the territorial borderline between the Republic of Moldova and Romania will be the final result of the integration process?

[Snegur] No. I never said that. The need for the spirit not to be hindered by borders between countries is valid for all parts of the world. As for economic integration, the final result here would be that Romania and the Republic of Moldova would jointly establish free economic zones in the territories along the two countries' borders. The final result would be the establishment of various contacts at various levels, like the ones between the United States and Canada, with a lot of advantages.

[Botos] In your opinion, is there a Moldovan people and a Moldovan language on the left bank of the Prut River, and a Romanian people and a Romanian language on the right bank of the Prut River? Do you believe in "the principle and theory of a Moldovan nation?"

[Snegur] I could refer to historians and scientists. In my view, we speak the same language, the Romanian language, that is true. But historians also make a difference between people and nation. I believe in the principle of a Moldovan people.

[Botos] Should we understand this in a way that there is a Romanian nation and a Moldovan people? Which historians claim this?

[Snegur] I could give examples, but the list is very long. However, I did not say that there was a Romanian nation and a Moldovan people. I only said that we had the same ancient roots, but different historical past and development.

[Botos] Do you agree with the following declaration: The independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova cannot exceed the limits determined and accepted by Moscow?

[Snegur] This declaration is not true; however, we cannot disregard Moscow's position on common issues. The relations between Russia and the Republic of Moldova are like relations between independent states. It is possible that certain Russian leaders make hasty and irresponsible statements, like the one mentioned before. However, President Yeltsin's position—and he firmly declared it—is that Moldova must be an independent and sovereign state.

[Botos] Mr Snegur! The issue of the Dniester region is perhaps the most complicated problem that you must solve. You and Boris Yeltsin signed a document on 21 June 1992, a document that guarantees the right to

self-determination for the Dniester region and, if the Republic of Moldova unites with Romania, this Dniester region can go separate. Do you think that this document is the first legal document that could create the conditions for the federalization of the Republic of Moldova?

[Snegur] One should take into consideration the circumstances in which this document was signed in Moscow: To halt the military conflict. In fact, we did not have any chance of victory in that war, because Russian political forces were also involved in the war, with their interest to keep the regions across the Dniester as a bridgehead. In fact, the political situation of the Dniester region remained the same after the signing of the document as it was before 21 June 1992. Private interests continue to dominate the left bank of the Dniester, namely the desire to recognize the statehood of this territory and to achieve the federalization of the Republic of Moldova. The federalization process that is not desired by us did not start with the signing of the aforementioned document on 21 June 1992; it started much earlier, as early as in the autumn of 1990, when the successor states emerged. We should have acted differently at that time, but not with drastic measures, but with peaceful political considerations. Armed solutions do not lead to any positive results, and last year's war proves this. I would not connect the separatists' attempt of federalization with the signing of the aforementioned document....

[Botos] What about the talks with Moscow in connection with the withdrawal of the 14th Army? Is Russia making the withdrawal of the 14th Army dependent on the status of the Dniester?

[Snegur] Negotiations indeed came to a halt here. Russia largely makes the withdrawal of the 14th Army dependent on the status of the seceder region. At the same time, Russia demands guarantees for this region that calls itself a republic to have self-determination rights.

Snegur Thanks Iliescu for 'Material and Moral Support'

AU1508144093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau Television broadcast last night the message sent by Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, to Mr. Ion Iliescu, president of Romania, which reads as follows:

Esteemed Mr. President,

The leadership of the Republic of Moldova has received with particular satisfaction and gratitude Your Excellency's statement of 12 August 1993 which expresses the position of Romania's leadership and yourself personally about the current difficult economic and political situation in the Republic of Moldova. We welcome and value more than ever before the material and moral support that the fraternal people of Romania are granting us at this difficult time in our destiny.

The bases of a cultural and economic integration and of comprehensive cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Romania have already been established, something which opens up vast prospects for the mutual prosperity of our countries. Romania's support will basically contribute to consolidating both the economic and political independence of the Republic of Moldova.

I take this opportunity to extend to you, Mr. President, my sentiments of high regard and best wishes—the message addressed by President of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur to Romania's President Ion Iliescu reads in conclusion.

Romanian President Offers Help in Harvest

LD1308151993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau August 13 TASS—Romania has sufficient amount of technique to help Moldova transport and process its new rich harvest, according to Romanian President Ion Iliescu. He addressed the Moldovan Government and political forces in a radio broadcast on Friday.

The Romanian president said the Moldovan parliament's refusal to ratify the Minsk agreement and join the Commonwealth was demonstrative expression of the will of an independent sovereign state. The choice of Moldovan citizens, willing to develop and strengthen their independence, was confirmed. Romania respects this choice and is ready to help Moldova, as one sovereign state helps another sovereign state, the declaration says.

Presidium Calls For Enhanced Economic Ties With CIS

AU1308162793 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The decision published today by the Presidium of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova recommends to the president of the republic [Mircea Snegur] and to the Government to intensify efforts to further bilateral and multilateral economic relations with all the countries of the world, including the republics formerly belonging to the Soviet Union, and to participate in negotiations held to establish the CIS economic zone, with which the Republic of Moldova has traditional economic ties.

The decision also explains that these recommendations are necessary because Parliament has rejected the ratification of the economic part of the CIS adherence treaty, because Moldova needs raw materials, other merchandise, and markets for its own products, and because bilateral and multilateral ties ought to be developed, as that was the opinion of the majority of deputies during

the recent extraordinary session, our correspondent Nicolae Mircea Nastase reports.

Prospects For Solving Parliamentary Crisis Analyzed

MK1308130693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 3

[Natalya Prikhodko report under the "Moldova" rubric: "Prospects of a Crisis Are Unclear, But Its Consequences Are Already Being Assessed"]

[Text] Since the Moldovan parliament went into recess leaving its own fate undecided, the public has begun guessing about its future on its own. There have been very conflicting forecasts. At the Moldovan Socialist Party's press conference, its leaders also differed on the subject: some claimed that the parliamentarians would halt their activity and call an early election as soon as the upcoming parliamentary session next September, but others questioned that view, seeing the parliament as "unsinkable."

According to Viorel Ciubotaru, head of the Moldovan Republic president's cabinet, the September session will not be the last link in the unwinding chain of the parliamentary crisis. The deputies are unlikely to make the necessary, overdue decision to dissolve a body that has long been incapable of action and at variance with new realities. It is precisely this step, however, that the public expects from parliament as its sole legitimate action. As for speculation about the possible dissolution of parliament by presidential edict, Viorel Ciubotaru pointed out that the current Constitution does not provide for any methods to dissolve the legislative body. Therefore, a lot will depend on the specific political situation. The idea of convening a Constituent Assembly, which was advanced by the Social Democrats, for instance, has not yet been assimilated by the local political elite.

What course may be charted out of the political crisis is yet unclear. Viorel Ciubotaru said the very fact that it has broken out, however, is positive. He wishes the parliament "had gone into a spin," say, a year ago—then the country it leads would have needed less time to maneuver itself out of the dive.

This purely parliamentary crisis broke out among those who in spite of all are intent on retaining their seats and privileges, and those who are willing to give them up as they sense their responsibility for the future. The president's cabinet chief also deemed erroneous the claims that the crisis was caused by a confrontation between the branches of power. This time, the parliament chairman's assessments are not in conflict with conclusions drawn by the president: Petru Lucinschi also has favored early elections.

By the way, the non-ratification of the Almaty agreement on the CIS is only a consequence of the infighting within the parliament and does not reflect the Moldovan authorities' actual viewpoint. Russia and other CIS countries should have taken this into account. Otherwise, the discriminatory measures they have taken and the ensuing alienation of Moldova will compound the already critical position of its economy, Viorel Ciubotaru said.

But will Moldova's traditional partners be able—or willing—to figure out such nuances? Yevgeniy Ursaki, Moldova's deputy economics minister, did not sound especially confident about that. Devising conditions most comfortable for each by a number of associated states is one thing, but a situation where other states that have not joined the association or assumed any obligations lay claims to them is quite another, he noted. In his view, the arguments that have been voiced by the opponents to the accession to the CIS economic union do not hold water; they are based on speculation, and not on any palpable political realities. The practical consequences of the parliament's decision, however, look fairly convincing.

The Russian Federation State Customs Control Committee has already ordered that goods from Moldova and Azerbaijan, who did not join the CIS, be taxed according to generally applied rules. This means that Moldovan products (primarily agricultural produce) will automatically become more expensive, and problems have already cropped up in selling them on the CIS market owing to their high prices. The new obstacle will undoubtedly hamper the government's efforts to restore old economic ties. Among other things, it will weaken the government's decree on licensing liberalization, drawn up by the Economics Ministry in order to stimulate and broaden Moldova's trade ties with its partners. Direct transactions for bartering fuel will also be hurt. Now it will be more difficult to reach the former understanding with regard to providing the republic with fuel and energy resources. Furthermore, a certain chill may be expected not only from Russia, the main supplier, but also from other CIS countries.

A political cold spell around the republic may naturally bring down temperatures inside it, as well. According to Yevgeniy Ursaki, as of today, Moldova has only 10 percent of the coal reserves it needs during the winter period, and a number of areas have received a total of between 1.5 and 2.0 percent.

The aforementioned gives one cause to advance another theory. A parliamentary crisis may be resolved not in September, but in November, when the heating season arrives amid fuel shortages. Thus, houses with virtually no heating will either make the deputies warm toward the problem, or will spark new passions among the freezing population.

Bank Executive Views Introduction of National Currency

AU1508161693 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1600 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/8/1993—The Dniester problem does not hinder the introduction of national currency, as it is claimed to be, stated to "VIATA SATUIUI" (LIFE OF VILLAGE) Natalia Vrabie, first deputy chairman of the commercial bank Moldova-Agroindbanc S.A. "We reached the moment when we can no longer hesitate; we must decide definitely: Whether we remain in the ruble zone or we apply national currency," Mrs. Vrabie states. According to her, as long as the coupon and ruble circulate, one cannot establish the rate of money and goods of Moldova to the money and goods of countries Moldova trades with. "Russia's decision to apply its national currency proved that it will continue economic relations with other states, guiding by its own interests. Thus, we (?should?) not hope that Moscow cares of our interests," stated the expert.

Trade Union Council Predicts Increased Consumer Prices

AU1508180793 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Aug 93 p 5

[Svitlana Chala report from Chisinau: "A Basket Worth 100,000 Rubles"]

[Text] **The staff of the Administration for the Economic and Social Protection of the Population at the Moldovan Federation Council of Independent Trade Unions have predicted an increase in the minimal consumer budget by the end of the current year.**

If the present prices of fuel are maintained and the overall index of prices of the remaining goods and services grow by 20 percent a month, the cost of the consumer basket will reach the level of 102,000 rubles [R] by the end of December. As early as in September, the minimal consumer budget will constitute R58,800 and in October—R70,600. At the same time, in June, the average monthly wages in Moldova constituted R17,000.

Dniester Vice President: Republic To Stay in Ruble Zone

MK1308121593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] Dniester Region—Dniester Republic Vice President Aleksandr Karama has stated that: "The Dniester Republic is staying in the ruble zone despite the decision by Moldova's parliament not to ratify the Almaty agreements." The Dniester vice president stressed that the republic's Supreme Soviet would continue the policy of strengthening the Dniester Republic's statehood.

Tiraspol Authorities Oppose Economic Reforms

AU1508161793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1600 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/8/1993—Tiraspol leaders have approved in 1991 the law on privatization just not to be blamed of conservatism; actually, they would not proceed to economic reforms soon, states Leonid Levin to the Russian "NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA" (INDEPENDENT MOLDOVA). [Sentence as received] The privatization programme is not approved yet; Tiraspol authorities took no position on the voucher system. Anyway, they said Moldovan vouchers would be not valid in Dniester. Also, they halted privatization of flats, saying the needed norms were missing. Igor Smirnov, Grigore Maracuta and other Tiraspol leaders say they would wait for the effects of privatization in Russia and other CIS states, states Levin. At the same time, OSTK [United Council of Labor Collectives] and other neo-communist formations demand to stop the reforms, claiming that they hurt social equity. However, illegal privatization begins in Tiraspol, especially in public utilities, subordinated to Minister Aleksandr Seidakov, the author states. There is no doubt that after legal privatization starts, the people will only have the remnants, Levin believes.

Tajikistan

Tajik, Afghan Foreign Ministers Issue Communique

LD1508055793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0335 GMT 15 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, 15 Aug—The Tajik side will not permit armed actions from its territory against Afghanistan. When carrying out actions against any raids from the territory of Afghanistan it will operate within limits not going beyond the bounds envisaged by the right to self-defense. This is said in a joint communique of the foreign ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic State of Afghanistan, released today to the mass news media. At the same time the Afghan side, the document notes, will, as far as it can, make efforts to prevent any violations of the frontier from its territory.

The sides express willingness to use the talks process and other political means for a peaceful settlement of existing problems. The Afghan side is prepared, if necessary and by agreement with the sides involved, to act as mediator in settling the said problems. The document notes that the sides agree in the near future to define the membership of delegations of representatives of the governments of the two sides to examine frontier questions.

The communique envisages that on the basis of the acknowledged international principles and standards, the sides will give every assistance to the voluntary return of Tajik refugees from Afghanistan to their home. It is envisaged that a trilateral commission will be set up comprising representatives of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and the office of the UN chief commissioner for refugees.

It is noted that for the purpose of all-around discussion of questions of mutual interest, the sides expressed determination to prepare the ground for a meeting of the heads of state of the two countries. At the same time it is stressed that the sides express confidence in the positive influence of the Dushanbe meeting for the resolution of existing problems and thus confirm their respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

It is evident from the document that the sides consider that the Dushanbe meeting will exert a positive influence on the resolution of the existing problems and will open new pages of friendship and cooperation in the history of the Tajik and Afghan people.

Foreign Minister Olimov Comments

LD1308152693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1512 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe August 13 TASS—The foreign ministers of Tajikistan and Afghanistan signed a joint communique on Friday [13 August], which many observers consider as a sign of considerable progress at the talks between the two countries.

"From general words we have moved to the development of very serious mechanisms for solving the problems which have been under discussion for the last two days. This has never happened before," Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov said.

"Our joint activities aimed at returning hostages—Russian and Kazakh servicemen captured on August 10 and taken to the Afghan territory—are a practical translation into reality of the principles of this document," Olimov added.

He stressed that his Afghan counterpart's decision not to go home until all hostages safely return to Tajikistan signifies the Afghan side's determination to solve this problem. "We have found such a form of solving this problem that would prompt the Afghan side to take the maximum effort in order to prevent armed provocations," Olimov added.

Afghan Foreign Minister on Returning Border Guards

LD1308170493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1625 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, 13 Aug—The Russian Federation and Kazakh servicemen who were taken hostage on 10 August near the Pamir village of Kurgovat are at present on the territory of Afghanistan, which is controlled by Kabul Government troops.

This was announced at a news conference in Dushanbe today by Foreign Affairs Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, after talks with Tajikistan Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov. The Afghan diplomat said that the hostages are safe in Afghanistan, from where they can be sent to the Uzbek border; after the appropriate mechanism has been worked out, they can then be handed over to representatives of Russia or Uzbekistan through the appropriate channels.

The Afghanistan minister of foreign affairs reiterated that he is returning to Kabul on 14 August, where he will tackle this issue immediately.

For his part, Rashid Olimov, speaking of tomorrow's planned handover to Afghanistan's official representatives of five citizens of that country, who were detained while violating the border, declared that this handover "is not a concession to the Afghan side in connection with the seizure of the five hostages. It is an act of goodwill on the part of the leadership of Tajikistan."

Leaves Dushanbe; Captives Not Returned

LD1408173093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala left today for Afghanistan after talks with his Tajik colleague, Rashid Olimov. This was reported by RIA. He thus has not kept his word given yesterday, to the effect that he would not leave Dushanbe until the four Russian border guards and the officer from Kazakhstan who are being held captive have been returned. The promise to return them has not yet been fulfilled. [passage omitted]

Captives Handed Over to Rabbani

LD1508102893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The CIS border guards captured on the Tajik-Afghan border on 10 August have been handed over to Afghanistan President Borhanoddin Rabbani. According to the Russian consulate general, they will be handed over to the Russian side shortly.

Handover of Afghan POW's Delayed Again

LD1408110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 14 Aug 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, 14 Aug (TASS)—The handover of five Afghan border transgressors on Tajikistan territory to representaives of the Afghan Consulate in Dushanbe has been postponed once again. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned this from trustworthy sources. In this connection it was unequivocally stated that there was no political underlying cause in moving the dates and purely "technical complications" were involved. "The decision adopted by the Tajikistan Government in no way was tied up with the fact that a Kazakh officer and four Russian border guards were taken hostage on 10 August," the source said. Concerning the fate of the hostages the same source pointed out that the Russian border troops and the officer from Kazakhstan are still being kept in the territory of Afghanistan and that the supreme power structures in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan are now involved in the effort to obtain their release.

It is now definitely known that the officer of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense and the Russian border troops were taken hostage by the fighters of Afghanistan's 12th Border Brigade under General Abdulkadyr, which is directly subordinate to the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and that the border kyshlak [village] of Moy-May is their stronghold. It was Abdulkadyr's fighters who took the Russian border troops hostage last May and held them in that kyshlak for several days.

Russian Troops 'in Full Control' of Afghan Border

LD1608140593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By KHOVAR correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 16 TASS—Russian border guards are in full control of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. They check all attempts made by armed anti-governmental groups to penetrate the republic from Afghanistan, the command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan told the KHOVAR news agency on Monday.

Over the past 24 hours border guards prevented two attempts to cross the border on the Pyandzh section of the border made by Islamic Revival Party militants from the territory of Afghanistan.

The command of the Pyandzh and Moscow border guard units met with Afghan field commanders on Monday. The sides agreed that the Afghan side would prevent armed intrusions into Tajikistan by anti-governmental militants. However the opposition continues to concentrate forces near the sections of the border controlled by the Pyandzh and Moscow border guard units.

Russian and Kazakh soldiers who were captured in a border clash on August 10 are being held in the province of Badakhshan. The Russian side is discussing terms of their return to Tajikistan.

A newly appointed commander of Russian border troops is expected to arrive in Dushanbe on Tuesday to study the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Opposition Leader Sees Moscow as 'Main Target'

LD1408170593 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 14, IRNA—The opposition "Democratic Party of Tajikistan" has objected to the proposed participation of neighbouring Uzbekistan in the negotiations for settlement of the internal crisis in Tajikistan.

The party also reiterated its opposition to the presence of Uzbek President Islam Karimov in the talks, reasoning that he was the main motive behind the suppression of national and Islamic forces by Russia.

Party leader Shadman Yousef in a statement released on the occasion of the third anniversary of the party's establishment, termed Karimov as "the main element behind the current destruction of the country", and expressed readiness to enter talks with Russia.

Yousef assured Russia that national and Islamic forces are not against the interests of Russia in Central Asia and Tajikistan, "rather they are for continuation of friendly relations with Russia."

However, since the current regime in Tajikistan took power with the help of the Russian Army and Moscow's political and economic support, the main target of the oppressed forces is Moscow and not Dushanbe, he said, and called on the Russian forces to withdraw from his country immediately.

"Russian forces are responsible for protecting Tajikistan's borders from foreign attacks as agreed by the Commonwealth of Independent States, while now they are fighting democracy and barbarically suppressing the will of the Tajik nation," said the statement.

He accused the commander of Russian Division 201 of being bribed by the current Tajik rulers to fan the flames of the civil war under the pretext of supporting the Tajik government.

Yousef claimed that main runners of Tajik affairs including Imamali Rahkmanov have given 500 million roubles to the Russian commander in order to carry out their plans.

Warning Russia against "unpleasant consequences" of the war against democracy in Tajikistan, he said this would seriously hurt the process of economic reforms in Russia.

The statement called on all freedom-lovers of the world to condemn the Russian military invasion of Tajikistan and support the legitimate will of the Tajik people of maintaining democracy.

Head of UN Mission Views Spread of Conflict

LD1308183593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] What is the opinion of the head of the UN mission in Tajikistan on the present situation in our Republic? Our correspondent Tatyana Logunova asked this question to Liviu Botah, who has the mandate of the head of the UN mission in Tajikistan.

[Begin Botah recording] I have to say that I have been in Tajikistan seven months already, and during this time the situation on the vast territory of Tajikistan has become stabilized. At the same time, I have to admit that this stabilization has not take place everywhere and that in several places the situation has become sharply aggravated.

The danger exists now that this aggravation can expand the area of the conflict. Of course, one cannot—someone like me as the head of the UN mission of observers—speculate, but one has to say very strictly that the situation here is very complicated, very dangerous, and one must pay a very serious attention to this. At the meeting or at the summit meeting [CIS heads of the states], an appeal to the UN secretary general was approved. This appeal has been already delivered to the secretary general, and we hope that soon the responses and reactions to this will happen. It stands to reason when we speak about the danger to international peace and security, the Security Council itself will deal with these questions and indeed in this appeal a reference to the action of the Security Council is contained. [end recording]

U.S. Ambassador Meets Gorno-Badakhshan Representatives

LD1308193393 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Several moments ago, the U.S. ambassador to Tajikistan Stanley Escudero met with representatives of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast.

The aim of this meeting is to become familiarized with the present life of the inhabitants of Gorno-Badakhshan and the rendering of economic assistance from the United States.

Armenia

Azerbaijanis Attack Agdam; Battles Continue

NC1308144893 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1311 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Army subunits launched an attack against Agdam this morning. According to reports received from Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Defense Army headquarters at noon today, the battles were still continuing there. Both sides have suffered losses. In general, the situation remains tense on the eastern borders of NKR.

The enemy Army has also intensified its activities on the northwest of Karabakh. The Azerbaijanis launched an attack against the Karabakh positions in this sector yesterday evening. The attack was repulsed. One Karabakh fighter was killed and two were injured. The Azerbaijani side suffered considerable losses in men. One enemy tank and two infantry fighting vehicles were destroyed.

The border villages in Gadrutskiy and Martuninskiy Rayons again came under artillery shelling from the direction of Fizuli this morning. Additional reinforcements of the enemy troops and military hardware are being observed there.

Continued Tension in Karabakh Area Reported

NC1408121193 Yerevan SNARK in English 0904 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 14 (SNARK)—Tension at the Fizuli-Hadrut direction still exists.

The Karabakh department of press and information told SNARK that artillery shellings of the Karabakh positions were again started today.

Yesterday evening the Hadrut, Edillu and some other settlements were shelled, then the Azerbaijani forces undertook the offensive in the Hadrut direction. The Madagiz village, Mardakert region, was also attacked. Both attacks were repelled.

The attackers had losses.

The Karabakh side had victims.

Karabakh Supreme Soviet Leader Appeals to CSCE Chairman

NC1308154193 Yerevan SNARK in English 1447 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 13 (SNARK)—The Karabakh delegation has no status of the official participant of the negotiations taking place in Rome within the CSCE, while Turkey is participating in the work of the negotiations as an intermediary to defend the Azerbaijani interests. No guarantees of realizing the achieved agreements. These are those factors which do not let reach desired results in the process of peaceful regulation of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict, says the letter of Karen Baburyan acting as a chairman of the Karabakh Supreme Soviet to Margaret Af Ugglas, acting chairman of the CSCE.

The letter expresses hopes on solving all the problems during the Rome consultations.

As for the new escalation of the Azerbaijani military actions it is closely connected with the internal political struggle which takes place in Azerbaijan and coming referendum.

The letter appeals to the CSCE to offer support in installing bilateral contacts between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan which might be the main part of the Rome meetings.

Baburyan's letter is the response to the yesterday's message of Margaret Af Ugglas which shows the anxiety with the escalation of the tension in the Fizulinskiy-Martuninsky-Gadrutskiy region.

National Movement on Nagorno-Karabakh Settlement

LD1408211193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2057 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan August 14 TASS—The warring sides—Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan—should refrain from further escalation of hostilities and facilitate, through their active participation in bilateral and multilateral talks, the peace process in the region, said a statement issued by the ruling Armenian National Movement on Saturday.

Armenia should demand that documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) provide for an immediate termination of both hostilities and blockades as envisaged by Resolutions 822 and 853 of the U.N. Security Council, the statement said. Additionally, the movement called for reconsidering the borders in the war zone. This should facilitate a ceasefire in the region and promote its security.

Lasting peace is the main prerequisite for strengthening Armenia's independence and promoting the interests of the disputed enclave, the statement said. It stressed that U.N. resolutions provide an opportunity for establishing security guarantees for Nagorno-Karabakh.

At the same time, at present self-defence remains the only effective guarantor of the enclave's security, the statement said. It called for using all other possibilities for creating security guarantees in the region.

Presidential National Security Adviser Resigns

MK1408104093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 p 3

[Armen Khanbabyan report under the "Armenia" rubric: "President Accepts Chief Adviser's Resignation. Who Will Replace Him?"]

[Text] The Armenian president has accepted the resignation of his chief national security adviser, Ashot Manucharyan. Manucharyan was one of the key figures in the former "Karabakh" committee, a "fiery tribune" of Armenia's "velvet revolution" of 1988-1990, a prisoner in Matrosskaya Tishina [a prison in Moscow], and Armenian internal affairs minister. Among members of the current Armenian political establishment, he was perhaps one of the few who was not attacked by the opposition for corruption or other sins, being a frank and modest man.

There have long been rumors about his resignation, but each time it turned out that they originated with the adviser himself. In the inner circle he has repeatedly asked "to work according to his speciality," that is, to become a deputy headmaster at an ordinary Yerevan school. All these conversations yielded no results, however. Insofar as one can judge, Levon Ter-Petrosyan did not plan to part with his comrade-in-arms who had a reputation as "a dove," although his views on the settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh displeased both some members of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's leadership and the opposition. So far, it is unclear whether the president has agreed to Manucharyan's definitive departure from the governing nomenklatura. This would mean too great an increase in the political role of the major ministries. Vacancies may open up for him—Vazgen Manukyan, the current defense minister, recently underwent complex surgery and temporarily withdrew from political activity. Manucharyan may suit the Armenian top brass, who would prefer to see a reserved politician rather than a militant professional at the helm of the ministry. The opposition will naturally explode in reproaches about "shuffling the nomenklatura cards," but the president has for a long time now not been impressed by this outcry. What is much more relevant is the question as to who will assume the vacant post of national security adviser, because this will affect whether there will be tangible changes in the state's foreign and internal policy or not.

Bagratyan Voices Armenia's Support for Economic Union

WS1308133393 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Armenian Prime Minister Grant Araratovich Bagratyan has sent a letter to Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Danylovych Kuchma. The letter states that after careful study of the declaration by the Belarusian, Russian, and Ukrainian Governments regarding urgent measures aimed at economic integration, the Armenian Government affirms its support for the main provisions of the declaration.

Armenia believes, the letter goes on to say, the preservation of a single economic zone is in line with the interests of Armenia, the government of which expresses its readiness to participate in the preparation of relevant documents.

Azerbaijan

Armenians Reportedly Launch Offensive North of Agdam

NC1308172893 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1513 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 13.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Armenian troops became more active along the frontiers with Zangelanskiy district and on Murovdag [Murov mountain] pass Armenian side had been firing the villages Shaifly, Kollugishlak and positions of Azerbaijani Army on the hill Shukpataz in the bordering Zangelanskiy district from the guns at the time when the UN representative visited it ASSA-IRADA was told at the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan Republic. The reason is impunity of Armenia by the world public. Azerbaijanis positions on Murovdag pass were subjected to firing from Grad missiles. Armenian Army systematically subjects to firing the bordering villages of Kedabekskiy district and also Dzhebrailskiy and Fizulinskiy districts of Azerbaijan.

[ASSA-IRADA transmits another report on the fighting at 1619 GMT, which adds the following: "Armenian troops occupied another 6 villages of Agdamskiy district today August 13. The subunits of Armenian Army assumed offensive on the settlements towards the north of the occupied town Agdam ASSA-IRADA was told at the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan. After the fierce battles they managed to invade the village of Shishpagly, Eyvazkhanbayly, Kosalar. The heavy battles are taking place there."]

Armenian Army Continues Attack East of Nagorno-Karabakh

NC1408122393 Baku TURAN in English 0856 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Spelling of all names as received]

[Text] Baku, August 14 (TURAN)—Armenian Armed Forces continues their attack to the east of Nagorno-Karabakh. August 13 in the evening after artillery preparance [as received], motor-infantry units supported by tank battalion have launched advance on the north of Agdam region in the direction of Barda, reports Azerbaijan Defense Ministry. To 22 o'clock Armenians occupied 6 villages—Shirvanli, Karakashli, Geitepe, Kosalar,

Shishpaapahli and Eivazhaanbeili. Armenian tanks moved on 7 km from Agdam in the direction of Barda town.

Today at 6 o'clock in the morning, Armenian artillery resumed firing of positions of Azeri Army and settlements in this direction.

Chief of Department of Information of Azerbaijan DM [Defense Ministry] Rovshan Jamshidov told TURAN agency, that military operations of Armenian Army have showed, that Armenian party had not [passage indistinct].

Defense Ministry Reports 11 Killed in Armenian Attacks

NC1408142193 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1243 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 14.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—As a result of barbaric fire of Armenian artillery 11 people have been killed and 23 wounded only in one morning. This happened today, on August 14 in Tauz, Akstafa and also bordering on upland Karabakh Agdamskiy Province of Azerbaijan, ASSA-IRADA'S reporter was [told] in the Defence Ministry. 2 pupils of the 5th form and a little girl are among the killed.

Spokesman Says Forces Not To Enter Fizuli 'For the Moment'

NC1508162893 Paris AFP in English 1551 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Report by Christopher Boian; placenames as received]

[Text] Moscow, Aug 15 (AFP)—Scores were killed and wounded Sunday in fierce fighting near southeastern Nagorno-Karabakh that left Armenian forces poised to seize the strategic city of Fizuli and sparked fresh fears of a refugee exodus.

Both Azerbaijani and Armenian military commanders said the Karabakh Self-Defense Forces had taken control of eight villages on the outskirts of the Azerbaijani city of Fizuli, a key Azeri stronghold southeast of Karabakh.

"For the moment we won't enter Fizuli," a spokesman for the Armenian general staff in the Karabakh capital Stepanakert told AFP.

"We now control the hills around the city and control most access into it," he said.

Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave located in the heart of Moslem Azerbaijan, is populated mostly by Christian Armenians who have declared their independence.

The Azeri defense ministry in Baku said Armenian forces backed by tanks were attacking Fizuli from three sides and said there had already been isolated incidents of combat in the streets of the city, Interfax news agency reported.

"There is a real danger of losing the regions of Fizuli and Dzhebrail," Interfax quoted a ministry spokesman as saying.

The seizure of Fizuli would give Armenian forces control of a line stretching from Nagorno-Karabakh southwards through Azerbaijan to the Iranian border and mark another major Armenian conquest in the five-and-a-half-year war.

It would also isolate a substantial portion of southwest Azerbaijan, including the cities of Dzhebrail and Zangelan, inhabited by more than 250,000 civilians and reports Sunday said many were already fleeing the region.

The Azeri defense ministry said the "panic-stricken" population of villages around Fizuli had begun heading towards the Iranian border.

(Informed sources in Teheran said Sunday that the Iranian authorities feared an influx of refugees fleeing the fighting and the official Iranian news agency IRNA said 60,000 refugees from Fizuli had already sought refuge near the border.)

Fighting has been taking place in the Fizuli region for the past 18 months and the city's civilian population has fled in stages to other parts of Azerbaijan, including further south near the Iranian border, during that time.

Both sides traded accusations over who started the latest fighting, but both Armenian commanders in Stepanakert and the Azeri defense ministry agreed that Armenian forces had seized eight villages around Fizuli.

These were: Dashbashi, Mazra, Dur, Banazur, Myulkyudere, Arakyul, Gyshchylar and Gyshlag.

Armenian commanders said the villages were formerly populated by ethnic Armenians who were chased out by the Azeris, but admitted that several of them were squarely in Azerbaijani territory and not in Karabakh proper.

The general staff at Stepanakert reported earlier that 30 Azerbaijani fighters and one Armenian fighter were killed after Armenian troops repulsed an attack on the Kyzylkaya heights near the eastern Karabakh city of Martuni.

Another 25 Azerbaijani fighters were killed and many wounded in the fighting around Fizuli, according to initial figures provided by Stepanakert, which gave no account of Armenian victims.

Reports from various Russian and Azerbaijani news agencies spoke of heavy casualties in shelling of Armenian positions at Gadrut, southern Karabakh.

Further north, Armenian forces pushed further east from the Azerbaijani city of Agdam towards Barda, but there were no reports of casualties.

However conquests of Azerbaijani territory by Armenian forces in the past six months—notably in Kelbadzhar, northwest of Karabakh, and Agdam to the east—have carried the war well outside the boundaries of the enclave itself.

The war has killed upwards of 7,000 people.

Rebels Threaten Further Action Unless Baku Negotiates

NC1408130193 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Spelling of all names as received]

[Text] Stepanakert, Aug 14 (AFP)—The commanders of Armenian separatist forces threatened Saturday to seize more Azerbaijani land unless the Baku government resumes direct negotiations.

"The Azeri army is today totally demoralised and if we wanted to conquer more territory, it would be easy to do so," Serge Sarkissian, defence minister in the self-declared republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in western Azerbaijan, told AFP.

Speaking hours after the Azerbaijani defence ministry in Baku said the rebels had captured six villages in a new offensive east of Nagorno-Karabakh, Samvel Babaian, the separatist commander in chief, said: "If the Azerbaijanis do not start top-level negotiations with us, things will go on like this."

Babaian said Nagorno-Karabakh is prepared to fight on despite the risks of international condemnation.

Last month the U.N. Security Council condemned the separatists after they captured Agdam, an Azeri town east of Nagorno-Karabakh which served as the headquarters of regional Azerbaijani forces.

Sarkassian said the U.N. condemnation was regrettable as it had "encouraged the Azerbaijanis to break off negotiations" in the belief they could retake Agdam with international support.

The negotiations, which had just begun, amounted to the first time that the Baku authorities had sat down with the separatists, rather than with representatives of the government of Armenia proper, Sarkassian pointed out.

Baku had begun direct talks because "they knew that they risked losing a lot" by continuing to fight, Sarkassian said.

He added that the rebels were not seeking Azeri land for its own sake, but "to ensure the defence of our territory by controlling strategic positions."

"We do not want to hold Agdam for ever, but we will surrender it only when we are sure (the Azeris) will no longer shell our settlements."

Earlier the Turan news agency, citing the Azerbaijani defence ministry, reported that the Armenians, with tank and artillery support, had advanced seven kilometres (five miles) towards the Azeri town of Barda, northeast of Nagorno-Karabakh, Friday night.

The rebels conquered six villages north of Agdam during their advance.

Early Saturday Armenian artillery was shelling Azeri positions and villages in the Barda region, Turan said.

Meanwhile Azeri forces were attempting to recapture Agdam, said an AFP correspondent in the area with the Armenian separatists.

More than 5,000 people have died since the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in western Azerbaijan, launched their separatist insurrection against the Baku government in 1988.

Armed Forces Reported To Retake 3 Villages

NC1608121393 Baku TURAN in English 0911 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 16 (TURAN)—The Azeri armed forces managed to retake August 15, the three villages from the eight in Dzhebrail region, seized the day before by the Armenian Army.

As a result of the yesterdays offensive, the Armenian armoured units pushed 6-7 km towards the city of Dzhebrail.

As the local headquarters of self-defense reports, today since morning the warring parties have the artillery fire.

President Elchibey To Return to Baku

TA1608114693 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1015 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Erzurum, August 16 (AA)—Forty-five days after a rebellion in his country forced him to flee to the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan, Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey announced that he will return to capital city Baku.

Elchibey, elected as Azerbaijan's president by a majority of voters a year ago, had to flee the capital city to avert possible bloodshed in Baku in face of a rebellion led against him by the troops of Suret Guseynov.

Guseynov was appointed prime minister and commander-in-chief by the parliament of Azerbaijan at the beginning of July.

The Azeri parliament transferred Elchibey's presidential powers to parliament speaker Geydar Aliyev after Elchibey refused to return to the capital.

A statement by the Nakhichevan People's Front said Monday that Elchibey will hold a press conference in the Kelekli village of Nakhichevan's Ordubat township on August 18 at 2:00 pm.

He will afterwards proceed to Baku.

Even though he refused to return to the capital city when parliament called on him to do so, Elchibey declared he was resuming his presidential powers nine days after rebel leader Guseynov was named premier.

Turkish Group Asks For Aliyev-Elchibey Union

NC1408130893 Yerevan SNARK in English 0904 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 13 [date as received] (SNARK)—Independent committee of Azerbaijani friendship and solidarity with HQ in Turkey sent on behalf of 94 organizations a message to Azerbaijani parliament chairman Geydar Aliyev calling him to unite with President Elchibey to get through the crisis together.

Turkish President Demirel's Reply to Elchibey Reported

NC1408130793 Yerevan SNARK in English 0904 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 13 [date as received] (SNARK)—Suleyman Demirel, the president of Turkey, has sent the replying message to Abulfaz Elchibey, the Azerbaijani president. In the message it is expressed the gratitude for condolence, sent from Nakhichevan concerning to the tragical events in Sivas. In message the President Demirel asks Elchibey and Azerbaijani people to accept his best wishes. Meanwhile Orkhan Arturulogly, the consul of Turkey in Nakhichevan, return from vacation and begin to [passage indistinct].

Police Prevent People's Front Rally

NC1308173493 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1619 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 13.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—The police of Baku put cordons at the vast territory in front of APF [Azerbaijani People's Front] headquarters and didn't allow to hold the meeting of protest against referendum motivating it by the common interdiction on holding the mass arrangement still the state of emergency is in force. As it was reported state of emergency for another 60 days since August 3.

Today August 13 by 6 p.m. by APF planned to hold meeting in front of the [words indistinct]. Police closed the approaching avenue to the APF supporters tried to break through the police cordons but they couldn't do it.

Aliyev Rejects Referendums on Talysh-Mugan Republic

LD1508142493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Last night television schedules in Baku were interrupted and a video recording lasting almost three hours was shown of a meeting of representatives of the Azerbaijan leadership with the participation of people's deputies, academics, and public figures from the republic's southern rayons.

The meeting was held in connection with events in Lenkoran, where on 7 August it was announced that the Talysh-Mugan republic [Talysh-Muganskaya respublika] has been created and that (Ali Akram Umatov), a former Azerbaijani defense minister and leader of a militarized group in the area, had been elected its president.

Geydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan's acting president and Supreme Soviet chairman, rejected the attempts to hold referendums and opinion polls in southern Azerbaijan towns over the formation of the Talysh-Mugan republic. Those taking part in the meeting accused (Umatov) of treason and striving to fragment Azerbaijan.

Aliyev Decree Replaces Rayon Officials

NC1308193293 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, has decreed that R. Nusret ogly Dubarov be appointed head of the Askeran Rayon Executive Authority and Vahid Rasul ogly Orudzhev be removed from that post; Nazif Metin ogly Akhmedov be appointed head of the Sheki City Executive Authority and Guseyn Murseli ogly Mustafa-Beyli be removed from that post; [name indistinct] be appointed head of the Salyany Rayon Executive Authority and Adalet Yusupov be removed from that post; [name indistinct] Ali-Akhmed ogly Akhmedov be appointed head of the Saatly Rayon Executive Authority and Mikhail Muzakhir ogly Gumbetov be removed from that post; and Aslan Ali ogly Aslanov be appointed head of the Shamshir Rayon Executive Authority and Dzhalal Akhmed ogly Mamedov be removed from that post.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Moscow

NC1308153493 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1026 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 13.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Mutual delivery of goods between Moscow and Azerbaijan for more than 100 bln. roubles, setting up international bank for speeding-up financial mutual settling accounts, drop in the custom duties—these are the items of the agreement on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, signed by Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and Prime-Minister of Azerbaijan Suret Guseynov. At the press-conference which was held after signing the agreement, Yuriy

Luzhkov emphasized that he welcomes the latest changes in Azerbaijan. Yuriy Luzhkov thinks that this changes will promote stabilization of political and economic life in Azerbaijan Republic and the neighbourhood with stable and highly-developed country meets with Russian interests.

Turkmenistan Resumes Gas Deliveries

LD1308191893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 13 Aug 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Mikhail Kerimli for TASS]

[Text] Baku August 13 TASS—Turkmenistan resumed gas deliveries to Azerbaijan today, after a seven-day break caused by the Azeri non-payment of the 6.5-billion rouble debt for gas transportation. Turkmenistan daily supplies seven-eight million cubic meters of gas.

On coordination with Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan will pay for gas transportation with clearing supplies of oil products.

Agreement Reached in Baku on Pipeline Through Iran

LD1408171793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] At a meeting of representatives of the oil companies in Baku, preference was given to laying oil pipelines through the Iranian territory to carry the Republic of Azerbaijan's oil to Turkey. The meeting chose the Iran to Nakhichevan and Turkey route as the best alternative, since the route through Georgia is more costly.

Ten billion dollars will be invested in the project of oil production and transport in Azerbaijan, one of the biggest oil projects of its kind in the world, to extract between 4.4 to 4.7 billion barrels of oil.

Thanks to the new agreement, 85 percent of the revenue from oil extraction will be placed at the disposal of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the remaining 15 percent will go to the foreign companies. Whereas the previous contract, signed at the time of the former president, had allocated 75 percent of the revenue to the foreign companies, leaving only 25 percent for the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Greek Envoy Meets Acting Foreign Affairs Minister

NC1408130393 Yerevan SNARK in English 1117 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 14 (SNARK)—Khabar-Service News Agency told SNARK that Panayiotis Karatsasis, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Greece to Azerbaijan, had a meeting with Albert Salamov, acting as the Azerbaijani minister of foreign affairs.

Mr. Karatsasis said that the Athens [as received] are ready to contribute to the regulation of the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict.

Georgia

Foreign Minister, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Trade

LD1308183893 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1415 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Tbilisi—The Foreign Ministry press center reports that Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze met Kent Brown, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia, today. The conversation concerned prospects for the development of bilateral relations between the United States and Georgia. According to the ambassador, an agreement on trade relations between the two countries prepared in the U.S. State Department and Georgian Foreign Ministry and signed in early March this year has been ratified by the U.S. Congress and now goes into effect for the benefit of both parties.

This document stipulates, in particular, granting Georgia most favored nation status, which means a normal trade regime with a friendly country. Countries which base trade and economic relations on most favored nation principles, in accordance with their legislation, establish low rates and customs duties, do not limit imports and exports, support bank operations, and so on. It should be noted that this sort of status was not enjoyed by the former Soviet Union. The United States conducts relations in this way with those countries of the world which base their social relations on democratic principles.

After the meeting, Kent Brown and Aleksandre Chikvaidze held a news conference at which they answered journalists' questions.

Hold News Conference

LD1308211193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Report by Lia Tsiklauri]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] After the meeting of the Georgian foreign minister and the U.S. ambassador a news conference was held. I would like to tell you about it. The news conference opened with a ceremony at which Aleksandre Chikvaidze and Kent Brown exchanged the signed copies of the agreement. [passage omitted]

Naturally, everyone is interested by a question voiced by a journalist at the news conference: How can equal rights of the parties of the agreement be arranged in conditions where Georgia possesses nothing while there is an abundance of everything in America? The ambassador reassuringly explained that Georgia is able to interest America with some things; for example, wine, minerals,

tourism. However, America and the ambassador himself believe that Georgia will soon emerge from the crisis and America will buy something from us. Thus, the agreement is not an act of onesided charity, although America does not rule out unselfish aid.

As an example the ambassador mentioned a plane which arrived from America yesterday. There will be more of such aid. Wheat to the value of $30 million will arrive next week. But the investments Georgia will receive from America for the development of a private sector and entrepreneurship will be the best aid.

However, we still seem to look at investments sceptically and therefore we asked the ambassador to name at least one American who had made investments in Georgia. In the ambassador's view there are many who are interested. He mentioned a couple of people who invest money in wine production and the oil industry. Others demand guarantees of security and this is quite reasonable after recent developments.

Naturally, many questions were asked about the tragic death of an American diplomat. We will speak about that later. Now, still on the subject of U.S.-Georgian relations: Georgian Foreign Minister Chikvaidze has no doubts about the practicability of the relations. Moreover, he thinks we will soon have a chance to say: The Americans are coming." Considering the optimistic mood of the U.S. ambassador, we can assume that it is not so easy to scare the Americans.

Convoy Blockade, Woodruff Killing Linked

PM1608130193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 93 p 3

[Valentin Sheverev and Petr Karapetyan report: "Combat Helicopter as Means of Contact? It Was Only Thanks to Russian Military's Decisive Actions That Motorized Convoy Was Not Looted"]

[Excerpts] As already announced, a Georgian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] battallion blocked the path of a convoy traveling from the North Caucasus Military District to a unit of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus 11 August at 1500 hours near the village of Natakhtari, 25km from Tbilisi. [passage omitted]

It is in itself remarkable that the convoy was stopped in precisely the same area where, the republic's law enforcement organs claim, U.S. diplomat Fred Woodruff died 8 August from a stray bullet. On receiving news of the American's killing, Eduard Shevardnadze said that "since that has happened, it is time to take emergency measures in the republic." But in our view that conclusion could have been drawn far earlier. [passage omitted]

UK's Major Pledges Assistance Within EC Guidelines

LD1408144093

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian at 1500 GMT on 13 August broadcasts a two minute report on a letter received by Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze from British Prime Minister John Major.

The prime minister appreciates Shevardnadze's contribution to the signing of an Abkhazian cease-fire agreement and expresses a belief that this "will open the way" for the arrival of UN observers.

The letter says that on Major's initiative, those present at the G-7 meeting in Tokyo have discussed trying "to find ways to assist" Georgia.

Major promises to take the quickest possible action on European Commission recommendations. Meanwhile, the EC has already started to finance emergency assistance. Technical assistance in economic restructuring will also be provided. Food industry consultants are going to visit Georgia in August.

Major advises that the program of systematic support for restructuring approved by the IMF will be considered "a key for future financial assistance."

UN Envoy Arrives, Holds Talks With Shevardnadze

LD1508131193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Report by CONTACT news agency head Dimitriy Kikvadze]

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal envoy, Mr. Knutsen, is in Georgia at present. Today, he was received by the Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze.

I will present information about it now.

Knutsen arrived in Tbilisi right after a recent telephone conversation between Shevardnadze and Butrus Ghali.

Knutsen familiarized himself with the situation in Abkhazia on the spot and will report his views to the UN Security Council on what the UN operations in Georgia should be like so that this international organization takes the earliest possible appropriate decision.

During the meeting, the head of state requested that the guest pay special attention to old as well as recent facts of the violation of human rights and the deportation of the Georgian population residing on the territory controlled by the Gudauta side. Some of these facts have already been recorded by the united commission operating there.

The conversation was attended by Sandro Kavsadze, the Georgian head of state's personal envoy on the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict and the chairman of the human rights committee.

Today, the UN secretary general's special personal envoy, Mr. Knudsen, and Mr. Kavsadze are going to Sukhumi, where their meeting with the chairman of the Council of Ministers and Defense Council of Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, Mr. Zhiuli Shartava, is planned. Also today, their visit to Gudauta is expected. Talks will be held there.

Two Russian Sentries Killed in Attack on Kutaisi Arms Depot

LD1608084093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 16 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Aug—At 0300 this morning three unknown persons carried out an attack on the rocket and artillery armaments depot of the Russian motorized rifle regiment stationed in Kutaisi. Two of the sentries guarding the depot were killed by automatic gunfire, the press center for the group of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus told an ITAR-TASS correspondent by telephone. The attackers disappeared after seizing the sentries' weapons and ammunition.

Abkhaz Leader Cancels Withdrawal From Conflict Zone

LD1508185693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Following several encouraging reports this week from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict on the disengagement and withdrawal of armed units, an unexpected report came in this evening from the Abkhaz mission in Moscow. Ardzinba has issued an order cancelling the withdrawal of volunteers from Abkhazia planned for tomorrow, accusing the Georgian side of frustrating the timetable agreed by the three sides for withdrawing military hardware, armaments, and manpower from the territory of Abkhazia. This has been established by the temporary monitoring groups, the mission's statement says. The Georgian side is silent on this for the moment.

'Mutual Accusations' Result in Halting of Withdrawal

AU1608134093 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug 16 (AFP)—Georgian and Abkhazian forces have suspended their withdrawal from one of two conflict zones amid mutual accusations of violating a force disengagement accord, officials from both sides said Monday.

Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba, alleging that Georgian troops had not pulled back as planned, ordered a halt to the departure from Abkhaz territory of volunteers from other parts of the Caucasus in southern Russia, a spokesman for the Abkhaz parliament told AFP by telephone.

A Georgian defense ministry spokesman told an AFP reporter in Tbilisi that the pullback of Georgian troops was halted Monday in response to Ardzinba's suspension order.

"The first Georgian units and military hardware were already prepared to leave Abkhazia, but following the decree of Ardzinba, Georgia suspended the withdrawal of its troops from the western front," the ministry spokesman said.

The western front refers to battle lines along the Gumista river north of the Abkhazian capital, Sukhumi. There were no reports of delays in the pullback of forces from a second front further south at Ochamchira.

The Abkhaz parliament spokesman said Ardzinba ordered the volunteers from the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples to delay their departure from Abkhazia due to Georgia's failure to comply with the disengagement timetable.

Under the terms of a timetable, these volunteers, who account for about one-third of the armed units who have fought alongside Abkhazian separatist forces, were to have left Abkhazian territory Monday.

But the spokesman said the suspension order was given in response to an admission by Georgian authorities Sunday that their pullout was being delayed by Georgian nationalist groups in the region opposed to the withdrawal who were interfering with logistics.

The Ardzinba decree applied only to the non-Abkhaz "goodwill volunteers" and was "not aimed at bring on the collapse of the process of resolving the conflict in Abkhazia," the parliamentary press service said, according to ITAR-TASS.

A Russian general who is a member of the tripartite commission supervising the disengagement said military hardware had been withdrawn from frontline positions but criticized both sides for failing to implement the withdrawal plan on schedule, ITAR-TASS said.

The current disengagement comes a year after Georgian troops stormed Sukhumi to quell a separatist movement in Abkhazia, one of two autonomous Georgian republics, beginning a war that has cost several thousand lives.

Shevardnadze Assesses Consequences of Abkhaz War

LD1408190693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1749 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By unidentified GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Aug—The war in Abkhazia began exactly one year ago today. Assessing the consequences of this fratricidal conflict, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament and head of state, said in an interview to Georgian television: "Now is not the time to look for who is to blame for unleashing this terrible tragedy. The main thing at this moment is to stop the war, to put an end to the bloodshed, since it is hard to imagine what any continuation of the conflict might bring for Abkhazia, for Georgia as a whole, and for the whole region."

The last year, Eduard Shevardnadze commented, should be a bitter lesson for both our peoples—for both the present and future generations. "Georgia and its territory are indivisible." "And this year, he added, has been convincing testimony to the fact that every true citizen of Georgia, and not only Georgians, whatever side of the barricade he might be on, is ready to lay down his head for the integrity of Georgia." Today it is very important, the Georgian leader stressed, that the inchoate process of settling the conflict has not ceased, has not faded away. Therefore everyone, including our opponents, must exert maximum efforts to advance the peace process.

"We have had to opt for a certain compromise, the head of state said, for concessions if you like, when signing the cease-fire agreement. This, however, was done in order to reach the main goal, that of putting an end to the war, healing the grievous wounds it has dealt, restoring the borders that existed, and the ravaged towns and villages, bringing back the refugees—both Georgians and Abkhazians, and people of other nationalities—to their permanent homes."

Commenting that an encouraging start has been made to implementing this agreement, Eduard Shevardnadze voiced his conviction "that the matter will be carried through to the end, peace will at last come to the Georgian land, and with it stability throughout the republic."

Georgians, Abkhazians Exchange Prisoners

LD1408190093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1825 GMT 14 Aug 93

[By unidentified GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Sukhumi, 14 Aug—An exchange of prisoners of war took place today on the bridge over the Gumista River, from which mines have been cleared. The Georgian side handed over to the Abkhaz two POWs, and the Abkhaz handed over six to the Georgian side. It was decided to continue the exchange of POWs on the principle of "all for all."

A spokesman of the Georgian side in the Joint Commission for Settling the Conflict declared that "the artillery and armored equipment of the Georgian Armed Forces are ready to withdraw, but the withdrawal is being delayed because of a lack of coincident actions on the Abkhaz side."

Mine Clearing Operations Continue on Gumista Front

LD1508204993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Video report by correspondent F. Avidzba; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Svetlana Sorokina] Disengagement of the opposing sides continues on the Gumista front. The two sides have reaffirmed their readiness to carry out the planned disengagement.

[Avidzba] In the past 24 hours, mine clearing operations have been carried out on the Gumista section of the front. You are now watching what can become historic footage, if the process continues and the war in Abkhazia really comes to an end. This is the main bridge spanning the Gumista River, from the village of Eshera to Sukhumi.

The public is watching anxiously how the troop withdrawal schedule is observed. In accordance with the schedule, the command of the troops of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus has issued an instruction, that says, I quote: All unit commanders are to prepare the personnel for withdrawal from the territory of the Republic of Abkhazia. Tomorrow, a solemn ceremony is to be held in the historical center of the village of Lykhnyy to see off the volunteers, who virtually from the first day of the war helped the Abkhazians to carry on in their unequal struggle.

Meanwhile, 15 fighters from the Armed Forces of the Republic of Abkhazia have been sent to Sukhumi as part of peacekeeping forces. [video shows cleared mines, the bridge over Gumista, groups of servicemen]

Abkhazia Blames Mkhedrioni for Increase in Crime

LD1608035093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] The leadership of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet accused the Georgian side of breaches of human rights on the territory under Georgian control. This information was released in Gudauta by the parliamentary Commission for Human Rights. According to the commission, since the signing of the Sochi truce, in Sukhumi there has been an increase in the looting of apartments of citizens, mainly Russians and Armenians. According to the commission, fighters of the Mkhedrioni formations take part in the looting. The statement by the parliamentary commission contains an appeal for UN observers to be placed in territories under Georgian control as soon as possible. It is also proposed to send a commission there to study the cases presented.

Gamsakhurdia Followers, Military Leaders Fault Accord

LD1508145693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Report by CONTACT news agency head Dimitriy Kikvadze]

[Text] A statement by Vakhtang Kobalia [leader of former Georgian president Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters] has been published in the 14 August issue of the SAMREKLO newspaper. It says:

On the morning of 12 August this year, at the initiative of Georgian Defense Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili, an agreement on our meeting was reached. We had to elucidate our attitude toward the processes in Abkhazia. On the same day, at 1300 hours, the command of the troops of Georgian armed forces stationed in Sukhumi, headed by General Geno Adamia, visited the headquarters of the National Guard [armed units supporting Gamsakhurdia] in Zugdidi.

According to the statement, they do not agree with the policy of the actual government regarding the disarmament of the soldiers in Sukhumi and withdrawal from the combat positions, seeing it as a violation of Georgia's state interests. The statement voices some other accusations toward the Georgian leadership.

The same newspaper has carried a publication under the following heading: A joint statement by the command of the troops fighting at the Gumista frontline and the Georgian National Guard. This is what the statement says:

Those of us who are fighting in Abkhazia for the territorial integrity of Georgia are appealing to all sound armed forces in Georgia to stand side by side with us and fight together with us to save Georgia. We declare that we will not cede an inch of Abkhazia as Georgia's ancient part and will fight to the end so that there are no Georgian refugees on Georgian land.

Brothers, future generations will not forgive us our faintheartedness. Those who want to create a Georgian state in Georgia stand with us to save Georgia.

The publication ends in this way: General Geno Adamia, General Davit Gulua from Sukhumi, and Colonel Loti Kobalia, Colonel Guram Lakia, (?Senior Major) Jambul Bokuchava from the National Guard took part in the talks.

Armed Group of Gamsakhurdia Supporters Active in Senaki

LD1308202993 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1545 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] The situation has grown tense in the town of Senaki again. An armed group made up of 50 supporters of the former president is picketing the Sukhumi-Senaki highway and railway. The picketers are carrying out unauthorized monitoring of passing vehicles and trains and are searching passengers.

There is also a TV tower in the area under the picketers' control. The former president's supporters plan to switch off TV programs from Tbilisi and go on the air with their own programs.

Loty Kobalia, Detachments Still in Suburbs of Senaki

NC1408130593 Yerevan SNARK in English 1117 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Tbilisi, August 14 (SNARK)—The Senaki town is under the control of the Georgian Department for Internal Affairs.

Valerian Gogolashvili, head of the press-service of the Georgian Department for Internal Affairs, told SNARK that Loty Kobalia with his detachments is still at the suburbs of the Senaki town.

Evaluating the situation existing in the town and in the region Mr. Gogolashvili said that it is quiet but the internal tension is growing from day to day.

Extraordinary Parliament Session Postponed Until 20 Aug

LD1608093693 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Georgian parliament which was due to be held this morning was postponed until Friday. The extraordinary session of the Georgian parliament will be held at 1000 on Friday, 20 August.

[Parliament Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze] The consultation was very constructive and businesslike. The atmosphere was calm. As agreed, the consultative meeting will be resumed in 30 minutes. I would like our public, our listeners, and our electorate to know that parliament and representatives of factions and parties are dealing with the issue of government formation with great responsibility. All issues must be solved in a constructive manner and in the spirit of mutual accord and understanding. This has been our brief information for today. Now I have to apologize to our public and television viewers. We have to bid them farewell. There is no need for a live relay. As agreed, we will resume the consultative meeting in half an hour. Mr. Shevardnadze was chairing this meeting earlier. In half an hour we will have to do it ourselves and have our proposals ready. Thank you for your attention. I am saying this to the public.

Shevardnadze Acts To Stabilize Situation in Kvemo Kartli

AU1608112893 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 4 Aug 93 p 1

["Directive of the Georgian Head of State on Measures To Be Implemented To Stabilize the Situation in the Kvemo Kartli Region"; place and date not given]

[Text] 1. To approve a plan of measures to be implemented to stabilize the situation in the Kvemo Kartli region.

2. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (T. Khachishvili), the Ministry of Defense (T. Dumbadze), the Information and Intelligence Service (I. Batiashvili), the Customs Committee (I. Kadagishvili), the Committee for Refugees and Resettlement (V. Vashakidze), the Ministry for Social Security, Labor, and Employment (V. Gujabidze), the republic's Procurator's Office (T. Ninidze), and the rayon gamgeoba [local administrative board] chairmen in the Kvemo Kartli region to elaborate, in accordance with the approved plan, and submit within one week to the head of state a list of specific measures aimed at achieving stabilization in the region. To take the necessary steps to implement these measures. To report once a month to the head of state on the measures being implemented.

3. To entrust coordination of the measures to be implemented in order to stabilize the situation in the Kvemo Kartli region and control over the fulfillment of the plan to a working group composed of the following members: Avtandil Margiani (chairman), Republic of Georgia vice-premier, Temur Pipia (deputy chairman), head of the service for the administration of the regions attached to the apparatus of the head of state, Minister of Internal Affairs Temur Khachishvili, Republic of Georgia Procurator General Tedo Ninidze, Deputy Defense Minister Tamaz Dumbadze, Customs Committee Chairman Irakli Kadagishvili, Valeri Vashakidze, chairman of the Committee for Refugees and Resettlement, Vazha Gujabidze, minister for social security, labor, and employment, and all the rayon gamgeoba chairmen in the Kvemo Kartli region.

[Signed] E. Shevardnadze

In accordance with the directive of the chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, a program of measures to be implemented to stabilize the situation in the Kvemo Kartli region has been elaborated and approved. It envisages, in particular, the implementation of necessary cadres changes in the rayon administrative bodies in the Kvemo Kartli region, efficiency reports on employees of the rayon internal affairs bodies in the Kvemo Kartli region, the determination of the military units assignments, currently based in this region, and the implementation of measures to increase discipline in these units. A special commission is to be formed to provide the population that suffered in the aftermath of the disaster and resettled in the Kvemo Kartli region, with employment and the necessary conditions. Illegal weapons held by the population in this region are to be confiscated stage by stage. The creation of a regional police administration in Kvemo Kartli and a customs service in Marneuli is planned.

In order to protect the passport office in Dmanisi rayon, the plan envisages the exposure of persons living in the region without the necessary registration stamp, the tracking down and bringing to justice of those persons guilty of the criminal acts in Bolnisi in May 1993 and who are organizers of destabilization, and the acceleration of investigations into crimes committed in this region. A working group involving the population of the region is to be formed.

The region's administrative service, the ministries of internal affairs, defense, and social security, labor, and employment, the republic's Procurator's Office, the Committee for Refugees and Resettlement, the Information and Intelligence Service, the republic's Customs Committee, the Dmanisi rayon police, and the Republic of Georgia members of Parliament from the Kvemo Kartli region are to be entrusted with ensuring the implementation of the measures envisaged in the plan.

New Internal Troops Commander Appointed

LD1308122393 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0925 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 13 August—According to an IBERIA correspondent, Colonel Vladimer Chikovani, the chief military advisor to [Georgian] Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze, has been appointed commander in chief of internal troops. Gela Lanchava has been transferred to the post of Georgia's deputy defense minister.

Shevardnadze Appoints Personal Represenative in Tskhinvali

LD1408171993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] This is a decree by the Georgian head of state on the appointment of [Omar] Eloshvili as the Georgian head of state's personal and fully authorized representative in the Tskhinvali region.

1. Omar Eloshvili, the state minister of the Republic of Georgia, is appointed as the Georgian head of state's personal and fully authorized representative in the Tskhinvali region.

2. Omar Eloshvili, the Georgian head of state's personal and fully authorized representative in the Tskhinvali region and state minister of the Republic of Georgia, is charged with coordinating activities of the ministries, agencies, and local administrations of the Republic of Georgia in the rayons adjacent to the aforementioned region, with the aim of facilitating a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and the return of refugees to their homes.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze